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AWAMI LEAGUE ELECTS SHEIKH'S DAUGHTER IN ABSENTIA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, February 18. The unanimous election in absentia of Mrs Hasina Sheikh, elder daughter of the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as president of the Awami League, can easily be described as an important development on the Bangladesh scene since the slaying of the former president six years ago by a group of armymen.

Mrs Hasina Sheikh is one of the two surviving members of the Sheikh family. The other is her younger sister now living in London. Mrs Hasina and her family has been given aslym in India and have been staying in Delhi since 1975.

The impact of her election has been immediate. Sweets were distributed in the streets of Dacca as the news got round and the people danced with joy. "I had to sit at the telephone for hours with a series of calls coming in from Dacca," she told this correspondent. "The operator had asked me not to put down the receiver because there was a queue at the other end."

Apparently, her election had become a necessity. The Awami League, riven by dissensions, could not agree upon any other name. On the eve of the three-day session of its council, the party was on the brink of a split.

But more important than the unity in the party her election appears to have brought about is the emergence of the political scene of a person who stands out as a symbol of hope for those who had fought for the liberation of Bangladesh. With the top leadership annihilated through a series of coups, the liberation forces have been in complete disarray.

"The thought uppermost on my mind is why should the killers of my father and the four national leaders not be punished. Far from taking any action against them, the present government has given them diplomatic assignments."

"Sometimes I feel there is no justice in the world because not a single country has raised its voice against the distardly [as published] killings. At long last a team of British MPs had decided to go to Dacca to investigate, but the government has not allowed its entry," she said.

Mrs Hasina, 33, acknowledges that an onerous responsibility has been thrust upon her but she also recognises that there was no other way out. The Awami League had become crippled through internal squabbles and dissensions.

"It is no doubt a heavy responsibility, but I am prepared to make any sacrifices. I want to dedicate my life to the cause of the nation. Otherwise, what have I to look forward to," she mused recalling how eight members of her family had been wiped out in one swoop on a "black" morning six years ago.

"Have you been involved in politics?" Mrs Hasina thought it was pointless to ask this question. Her family had been deeply immersed in politics.

"I have seen politics since my birth. How could I remain uninvolved. When the police used to come to take away my father, I used to pack his suitcase and make him a cup of tea."

Sitting in a modestly-furnished room in her small three-room flat, Mrs Hasina said that she was grateful to Mrs Indira Gandhi and the government of India that they had given her asylum when she could not have returned to her country. "We are used to living in all trying conditions. That is our training."

"Do you endorse the Awami League resolution that Bangladesh should strengthen its ties with the countries which had helped the liberation struggle?"

"Yes, of course. How can we forget all that," she said and then added slowly: "We want friendship with all countries. You see, we are a poor country."

Mrs Hasina has not yet decided when she will return to her country. "It depends on conditions there, I am in consultation with my colleagues in Dacca. I will have to take a decision soon," she said.

CSO: 4220

PTI INTERVIEWS AWAMI LEAGUE HEAD IN DELHI

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Feb 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, February 20 (PTI): The newly-elected president of the Awami League of Bangladesh, Mrs Hasina Sheikh, said here today that the party had never lost its mass following.

Asked whether she would be able to rejuvenate the party and restore the glory it enjoyed under her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's eldest daughter said the party still had a mass following. "You think the elections are an indication but was it fair and proper," she asked.

Mrs Hasina Sheikh and her nuclear physicist husband, Dr Wazid Ali, sought political asylum in India in October, 1975 and ever since they are living in New Delhi.

About when she would return to Bangladesh, Mrs Hasina Sheikh replied that it depends on time and circumstances. "Though I am aware that you cannot rely on him (President Zia-ur-Rehman) but I must indeed go back to Dacca....But there are many things to consider....My family, my home and many other problems."

However, a source close to the family said that the Begum would most probably fly to Dacca early in May.

"When I go back to Dacca, I would try to work towards the fulfilment of my father's cherished dream of 'sonar Bangla,'" she said.

Mrs Hasina Sheikh announced that her primary task after taking over the party leadership would be to demand the trial of her father's assassins.

Mrs Hasina, who is the mother of two--a nine-year-old boy, Joy and a seven-year-old daughter, Pultul--broke down several times when asked to recollect the events leading to the tragedy of that hot August night, six years ago.

"I not only lost my father and entire family, but they confiscated all our property, locked our houses in Dacca and our village in Faridpur, froze all our bank accounts and threatened us with dire consequences if we returned....But now that my people have raised their voice they want me back and how can I not comply with their wishes," she added in emotion choked voice. [as published]

She said she was grateful to Mrs Indira Gandhi for giving her and her husband asylum when 'we could not return to our country.'

Meanwhile, reports from Dacca said that the Awami League presidium, the highest policy-making body of the party, yesterday discussed the matter relating to home coming with full honour and dignity of Mrs Hasina Sheikh.

The presidum, meeting for the first time after the national council, warned that any attempt by the government to prevent Mrs Hasina from coming back to the country would be resisted and foiled. [as published]

CSO: 4220

REPORT ON GANDHI'S 12 MAR SPEECH IN NEW DELHI

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 81 p 10

[Excerpt]

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI on Thursday called for the husbanding of precious resources like oil and emphasised the need for an increased use of solar and other renewable forms of energy in agriculture.

In view of the increasing prices of petroleum and its products, only solar energy could mitigate the present energy crisis, she said and expressed the hope that once the production of solar energy plant starts, its cost of production would be reduced.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating a three-day 'Krishi Vigyan Mela' organised by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in the Capital. The theme of the mela is "renewable resources and efficient utilisation of energy in agriculture." Farmers from 15 States are participating in the mela.

Farmers, Mrs Gandhi said, had now by and large started utilising scientific methods in agriculture to enhance production. She

advised them to exercise caution against wastage of electricity, water and fuel.

The Prime Minister reiterated her assurance that the Government was keen to solve the economic difficulties and hardship of the farmers. She urged them not to lose hope but to draw inspiration from their achievements.

She said the country had achieved self-sufficiency on the food front because of the farmers' hard work. Food production had almost tripled, and the country would be in a far better position if the farmers' produce was brought in to the market and distributed properly.

Mrs Gandhi said that Indian scientists were making efforts to harness renewable forms of energy and the farmers should take the maximum benefit of their research. She also felt that children at school level should be educated about the new techniques in agriculture.

CSO: 4220

REPORT ON GANDHI'S VISIT TO ANDAMAN ISLANDS

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Port Blair, March 8.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, witnessed amphibious landing demonstration by defence forces at Havlock Island today, the second day of her three-day visit to the Andaman group of islands.

Country's defence fleet is now here for routine naval exercises. Vice Admiral Roy and Air Marshal Sahni along with Rear Admiral Nayyar were present.

The Prime Minister reached Havlock Island earlier by helicopter from Lembaline airport, about 14 km from here.

Mrs. Gandhi's programme for the day began with a visit to Sippighat Agricultural Farm accompanied by the Chief Commissioner, Mr. S. L. Sharma, Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta, MP and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, president, all India Youth Congress(I).

Later laying the foundation for the Tamil and Telugu medium higher secondary school at Mohanpura here, Mrs. Gandhi stressed that English could not be ignored.

Some people wanted her to act against English and they had been angry because she did not listen to them.

The Prime Minister said that the Government did not want to force any language policy on the people. Education must be given in the mother-tongue but there should be one language which would act as the link language.

Addressing a meeting at Rangat, the Prime Minister said the people of Andaman and Nicobar islands should remain vigilant against foreign ships roaming about in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

CSO: 4220

RELATIONS WITH U.S., USSR, ASIAN COUNTRIES DISCUSSED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 11.

The Rajya Sabha today expressed concern over the "visible escalation" of the U.S. naval presence in the Indian Ocean and the reported expansion of the naval base in Diego Garcia to facilitate the deployment of U.S. ground forces on the Asian mainland, in the Gulf and its neighbourhood.

Replying to a calling-attention motion tabled by Mr. Jaswant Singh (BJP) and others on the serious threat posed to the security of the country, the minister of state for defence, Mr. Shivraj Patil, said following developments in Iran and Afghanistan, other big powers had also enhanced their presence in the Indian Ocean.

He told the house that reports suggested that the Diego Garcia base was being "upgraded" with the following facilities: (1) A 12,000-feet runway capable of handling all types of aircraft; (2) A deep-water anchorage dredged to a depth of 45 feet suitable for naval task forces, including nuclear-powered aircraft carriers of the Nimitz class; (3) Eight fuel storage tanks with a capacity of 640,000 barrels, 320,000 each for oil and aviation fuel, sufficient to support a carrier task force for 30 days; and (4) An electronic communication station to provide rapid radio relay with ships and aircraft operating in the Indian Ocean.

The government, he said, viewed as a "distant possibility" the Chinese building a naval base in Pakistan near Karachi. A Chinese naval delegation did visit Pakistan from November 25 to December 7 and this had led to speculation about their building a base near Karachi.

The Chinese themselves are reported to have asked some British shipbuilding consultants to offer advice assistance in modernising their own ports and it was, therefore, unlikely that the Chinese would have offered to assist Pakistan in the development of a naval base.

However, the government has "noted with concern" the progress that Pakistan had made in its efforts to develop uranium enrichment and nuclear fuel reprocessing capability within a short time. Reiterating the government's commitment to using atomic energy for peaceful purposes, Mr. Patil expressed the hope that Pakistan would live up to its assurance that its nuclear programme was entirely for peaceful purposes and that "it has no non-peaceful dimension."

As Mr. Patil evaded replying to questions from Mr. Jaswant Singh and Mr. A. G. Kulkarni (Congress-U) on what would be India's stand if Pakistan acquired nuclear weapons, Mr. Dinesh Goswami (Ind.) expressed the view that the Prime Minister should have been present in the house to discuss the vital aspects of India's security.

Mr. Singh maintained that the subcontinent was encircled by an arch of crisis. With China in Tibet, the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and the U.S. in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia by proxy, Mr. Singh said an "unprecedented situation" prevailed in the region. In his view, the government had lost its strategic flexibility by attaching itself to one single string. The Soviet presence in Afghanistan, he said, had changed the security environment of India.

Mr. Kulkarni asked if the government was aware of the Rand Corporation report which suggested that Pakistan considered India to be its "enemy number one." Mr. Patil replied in the affirmative and said the situation in the region was becoming "more and more tense and more dangerous." While Pakistan was free to decide who was its enemy number one, India assessed the "direction and quantum of the threat" to its security and did not rate any country as enemy number one, two or three.

Conceding that the Diego Garcia developments posed a threat, Mr. Patil said India was trying to mobilise world opinion against the establishment of military bases and was trying to unite the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean to express their viewpoint freely in the United Nations and other forums to eliminate big power presence in the Indian Ocean.

CSO: 4220

WRITER EXAMINES PROBLEMS IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, March 10.

The Indo-American moves for better understanding are being stalled because of the Indian disinclination to go along with the current U.S. contention that the Western Powers should have a strong military presence in the Indian Ocean area to be able to contain any Soviet threat to the South and South-West Asian regions.

According to diplomatic reports from Washington, the Reagan administration intends to treat an unquestioning acceptance of this strategic concept as a sine qua non for strengthening its relations with countries like India which have been strongly opposing the Super Power rivalries in the Indian Ocean.

Though it has not yet been put across so bluntly even in the course of informal exchanges with Indian diplomats, the senior members of the Reagan team have not been making any bones about the U.S. determination to step up the American military presence in and around the Indian Ocean despite the continued opposition to many littoral States to it.

The new Defence Secretary has told Congress that the administration proposes to increase significantly the U.S. military capability in this area to respond quickly to any Soviet threat, whether it was an implicit threat of intervention or actual invasion.

The reported U.S. bid to carry forward this policy to the point of rearming Pakistan, and encourage it to enter into military arrangements with some of the Gulf States, is placing India in a difficult position.

Its attempts to develop a good countervailing relationship with the U.S. without in any way diluting its links with the Soviet Union will be frustrated by the U.S. insistence that the countries of the area must learn to live with the reality that only a powerful American military presence in and around the Indian Ocean can deter Soviet expansionism.

U.S. in No Hurry

But in the strict bilateral context the Reagan administration has not yet come to grips with Indo-U.S. problems. It is in no particular hurry to appoint a new ambassador since the State Department sees no great disability in not having one at present.

It is argued that if India could keep the Washington post vacant for 16 months, the U.S. will not be indulging in any courtesy by taking some more time in sending a new envoy to Delhi.

There were indications earlier that President Reagan might send a special emissary to open a dialogue with the Prime Ministers, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on regional issues like the Iraq-Iran war or the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. [as published] But the current emphasis on first stepping up the U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean, before engaging in serious discussions with the countries of the region has created an altogether new situation.

The Reagan administration, which is taking its own time to settle down, is apparently not interested in giving a higher priority to the strengthening of the bilateral relationship with India, if it cannot help to enhance the U.S. political leverage in the region.

The refusal to acquiesce in the U.S. bid to increase its military presence in the area is likely to be mistaken for a lack of adequate interest on India's part to seek closer relations with it.

Tarapur Stalemate Continues

The Tarapur stalemate continues against this background with no meaningful moves from either side to remove this major irritant from Indo-U.S. relations. The protracted negotiations for purchase of some military equipment have also been held in abeyance in the absence of a more basic understanding on the nature and scope of their bilateral relations.

The abrupt U.S. decision to delay the conclusion of the law of the sea convention, virtually going back on the commitments of the Carter administration, has further deepened the misgivings of countries like India about the evolving attitudes of the Reagan team over delicate international problems.

The near refusal of the U.S. to participate in the forthcoming Colombo conference on the Indian Ocean is not helping to create a better understanding of the new administration's policy postures which are getting increasingly overshadowed by its obsessive preoccupation with the Soviet threat to the region.

C80: 4220

U.S. AID CUT MAY 'SERIOUSLY' AFFECT SIXTH PLAN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Feb 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb 19.—President Reagan's cut of 20% in foreign aid could seriously affect India, particularly the financing of the Sixth Plan which assumes a net inflow of Rs 5,000 crores in aid during the five-year period.

Bilateral U.S. aid, resumed just a couple of years ago, is nominal and has averaged less than \$100 million a year and so any cuts in this will have a marginal effect. But President Reagan's decision could lead to substantial cut in U.S. contributions to the World Bank and more particularly, the International Development Association, its soft-loan affiliate.

India has, in the past, been a major beneficiary of IDA loans and accounts for around 40% of the total credits given by it. The credits are virtual gifts because of the extremely soft terms on which they are available (a nominal 0.75% annual charge and a repayment period of 40 years).

The next replenishment of the funds of IDA is now due and this depends heavily on the USA which is the largest contributor. Because of the present U.S. Administration's attitude to foreign aid, the

future of IDA is now in considerable doubt and so also is assistance to India from this multilateral agency.

Should the replenishment not come through, India will have to look at other sources of soft-term aid but will find this extremely hard. The only other option is the soft window opened by QPEC and India has still to persuade this organization that she qualifies for credits from it.

Since foreign aid from other countries on a bilateral basis is failing in real terms, the Indian Government may be forced to resort to further loans from the International Monetary Fund and increase the proportion of foreign funds to be obtained through commercial borrowings.

Last year India obtained Rs 815 crores from the IMF from its Trust Fund and compensatory financing facility and various other kinds of loans can be obtained from this institution. No decision has yet been taken on IMF loans, but these are known to be under consideration of the Government in a bid to maintain the foreign exchange reserves at as high a level as possible.

CSO: 4220

NATION REPORTED SEEKING CLOSER TIES WITH W. EUROPE

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Feb 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb. 18.

As part of its diplomatic efforts to establish better balance in its relationship with the two super-power systems, India is making a renewed bid to strive for closer links with the countries of Western Europe to acquire a greater degree of flexibility in its dealings with Moscow and Washington.

During the next few weeks, there will be a flurry of visits by West European leaders to Delhi to help India carry forward this process while striving for closer bilateral relations.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. R. D. Sathe, left last night for Paris for talks with his French counterpart, Mr. Bruno Levesque, on increased Indo-French cooperation in various spheres.

The French Foreign Trade Minister, Mr. Michel Courtaud, is due to visit India next month to lay the foundation stone of the giant alumina project in Orissa, which is to be built with French collaboration.

The French Foreign Minister, Mr. Jean Fréon-Poncet, is paying a visit later on for an exchange of views on current international issues. He will be preparing the ground for a visit by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, after the coming French elections.

He will also have occasion to discuss the progress of the talks under way for increased participation in India's industrial development in fields like petroleum, automobile manufacture and defence production.

Apart from collaborating in the manufacture of Mirage-2000 to meet

India's requirements of the next generation aircraft, France is also offering to sell advanced versions of combat helicopters for anti-submarine warfare.

According to UNI, France is trying to negotiate for the sale of 15 Super-Pumas — the combat helicopters equipped with air-launched anti-ship missiles — to the Indian Navy.

The West German President, Dr. Karl Carstens, will be paying a State visit to India early next month. He will be accompanied by the Foreign Minister, Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, for wide-ranging political discussions. A number of official teams and representatives of industrial organisations have been visiting India for detailed discussions on increased economic cooperation.

The British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, will be visiting India in April, accompanied by her Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington. An ambitious bid is being made by Britain for participation in the modernisation of India's ailing coal and power sectors, besides competing for building the Paradeep steel plant.

The Indian Foreign Minister is also expected to visit India shortly for talks on increased bilateral economic cooperation. The consort of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Prince Claus, is paying a two-week working visit from February 20, at the head of a high-power delegation of senior officials, representing various ministries of the Dutch Government, to explore the possibilities of intensifying developmental cooperation.

The EEC countries claim that their collective assistance to India in various fields either equals or exceeds the aid given by the Soviet Union or the United States. A significant feature of British aid, for example, is that it is given totally on a grant basis with no repayment obligation.

Apart from the political considerations behind the country's efforts to develop a third dimension to its economic relationship with the two super power systems, India is most anxious to avail itself of every possible offer of assistance to expand its petroleum, coal and power sectors before the oil prices cross the limits of its endurance.

The Government has been warned that at the present rate of increase the price of crude might reach \$100 a barrel by the end of this decade. The country is, therefore, anxious to obtain the latest technology from every available source without depending entirely, or even largely, on any single super power system.

It is with this object in view that the President's address to Parliament made a pointed reference to the possibilities of increased cooperation with Western Europe, while talking of India's "time-tested" friendship with the Soviet Union and matching endeavours to strengthen the "multi-faceted" relationship with the U.S.

The President said: "We are heartened at the emergence of a new mutuality of interests with countries of Western Europe, with whom we expect to expand our relations in all spheres".

Though a routine reference was made in the address, while spelling out the Government's foreign policy priorities to India's desire for better relations with Pakistan and its willingness to normalize relations with China, a glaring omission was the absence of any mention of Japan. It was more a case of unvoiced omission than a deliberate exclusion, since India's policy is to seek equally beneficial relationship with this industrial giant which is well placed to help India in many priority sectors in competition with the West or the Soviet Union.

CONGRESS(U) REPORTEDLY FACES CRISIS OF IDENTITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Mar 81 p 8

[Article by K. K. Katyal]

[Text] Despite its shrinkage, the Congress(U) has not lost its penchant for squabbles. This is the dominant impression left by the recent two-day AICC session with its many bizarre features. [as published] Only the brave among its leaders would claim that the members returned from New Delhi inspired by a new zeal or ennobled by a new awareness of the lofty character of its objectives.

The squabbles exhibited at the party forum were not without a purpose however. Beneath it was the tussle for the control of the organisation which had been building up, of late, but found an uncontrolled expression at the open session. Not that the discussions behind closed doors were any smooth, for did not the trouble first surface in the Working Committee? [as published]

From time to time, there had been demands for a change at the top by various quarters in the party. Some, like Mr. Mohammed Shafi Quershi and Mr. K. Gopal, were vociferous while others waited for a suitable opportunity to articulate their views. They stepped up their activities as the AICC session approached, in the hope that even if they did not succeed here the pressures generated by their campaign would help them in the organisational elections due to be completed in the next three months.

Mr. Devaraj Urs, in their opinion, had outlived the utility that he might have had when he was inducted as President. They argued that the political scenario had changed materially and Mr. Urs' inability to carry his State, Karnataka, with him in last year's Lok Sabha poll, had weakened his credentials for continuing to lead the party. His absence from the national capital for long periods and the state of his health were considered negative qualifications at a time when the party needed the attention of a whole-timer.

Leadership Issue

True to the Congress style of functioning the demand for a change produced a complex reaction. Mr. Urs took precautions to protect his position and in the process befriended some of those to whom he had been cool earlier. At the same time there was a scramble in anticipation of the possible vacancy and though the aspirants for the party post did not figure in it, their respective supporters were active.

There was no thaw in their activities even when it was clear that Mr. Urs had warded off the immediate threat. All eyes were turned to the plenary session, due to be held in June, to elect a new President. The choice of its venue thus acquired a special importance because of the impression, though not justified, that the leader in whose stronghold the plenary session was held would automatically get a weightage.

Trouble in Executive Meeting

What happened at the open session is known. What is not known is that the trouble first started in the Working Committee that preceded the AICC. It happened when the dates for the various stages of the organisational elections were being considered and someone casually mentioned the venue of the plenary session-- Aurangabad.

This turned out to be a signal for protests, bitter and full-throated. The minutes of the previous discussions (when Aurangabad was chosen) were produced but critics questioned the Working Committee's competence. It was clear that seniors were as much affected by factional considerations as the rank and file. This was evident in the subsequent unseemly scenes at the AICC.

Deeper meanings were read into the choice of Aurangabad because it is located in the pocketborough of Mr. Sharad Pawar, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and now a serious contender for the party post. Equally sinister were the interpretations given to the demand for holding the plenary session somewhere in the north, preferably in U.P. or Punjab. The noisy demonstration in support of this plea was considered the handiwork of Mr. Suresh Kumar, son of the former Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram who too, it was said, had set his heart on the top position.

Power Triangle

It was natural in such a situation for fiction to be mixed liberally with facts and the whole affair to be projected as a grim struggle to seize the party machine. Right or wrong, an impression was created in the party and outside, that the three sides of the power triangle were represented by Mr. Urs, Mr. Jagjivan Ram and Mr. Y. B. Chavan (through Mr. Pawar, his top confidant).

The graphic accounts of the manoeuvres, given by the party members with unconcealed relish, showed that Mr. Urs and Mr. Jagjivan Ram had come closer to ward off the "common danger". Mr. Urs, it was suggested, had inducted the youthful twosome, Mr. K. P. Unnikrishnan and Mrs. Ambika Soni, as General Secretaries in a calculated move to thwart the challenge to his position. Then there was the side struggle in U.P. where the party chief Mr. Shyam Dhar Mishra, was hard put to it to save his position against heavy odds. Its convergence with national politics added to the confusion.

The happenings at the AICC served to lend substance to these theories, real or imaginary. The session settled nothing. On the contrary, the unseemly wrangles witnessed there, appeared to be a prelude to a bigger tumult.

A Pale Reflection

Here is a party which is a pale reflection of the ruling Congress. It can boast of 21 members in the Rajya Sabha and paltry 12 in the lower House. Barring three or four States, its representation in the Assemblies varies from nil to marginal. Its organisational structure has nothing to commend itself. The party has no hope in the foreseeable future to share the fruits of power, and at present is a junior partner in a coalition only in one State, Kerala. The mad scramble in its ranks, therefore, is astounding, indeed.

Three Explanations

There are three explanations for this phenomenon. One, those in the Congress(U) pin their hopes not so much on the strength of the party as on the prospects of trouble in the Congress(I). Because of its over-dependence on a single personality, the ruling party, according to the wishful thinking of the Congress(U), would come to grief sooner than later and the moment of disintegration would be the chance for the latter.

The fact that it has Congress label and its leaders and those of the ruling party were colleagues not long ago, is considered particularly advantageous. It makes the waiting in the wings an attractive proposition and gives importance to those at the helm of its affairs.

This explains the keenness of its leaders to retain the separate entity of the party, even in the face of heavy political compulsions, to resist the suggestions for merger and change of its nomenclature. [as published]

After the Lok Sabha poll, Mr. Urs conceded that Mrs. Gandhi's party had emerged as the real Congress and proposed a new orientation under a new label--"Socialist Congress"--but had to give up the idea because of the strong opposition. That phase is now over and as was clear from the AICC trends, party seniors vied with one another in pleading for a separate entity.

Secondly, Congress(U) leaders are weighed down by their past--a past of uninterrupted power in the first 30 years of independence, and of mutual clashes. Those who were engaged in the struggle for supremacy for years find it hard to change their style, even in the changed context. [as published] It was this facet of the party's past that, among other factors, was responsible for the undoing of the Janata Party. Its top leaders--Mr. Morarji Desai, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Mr. Charan Singh, Mr. H. N. Bahuguna--brought to the Janata Party their old style with the results that were there for all to see.

Thirdly, the permissive less that characterises the political system as a whole, could not have left the Congress(U) untouched. There is an ominous uniformity about the decline in the norms of political behaviour that cuts across party lines. The affairs of the Congress(I) as also Opposition parties bear testimony to it.

In the Opposition camp, the Lok Dal finds its ranks depleted with close associates of the party President, Mr. Charan Singh, parting company with him because of his authoritarianism. [as published] In the Janata Party, the relationship among the seniors is not cordial in all cases. The Congress(U) thus is in good company.

Because of its preoccupations with internal problems, the congress(U) has had little time to think of ways to improve its relevance in the present-day situation. Also, how exactly it proposed to conduct itself in relation to other Opposition parties remains unclear. The "issue-to-issue cooperation" they talked about is too vague and general.

The Congress(U)'s interest in the six-party left-dominated Opposition front has perceptibly waned, primarily because the link between it and the other five parties was provided by the personal zest of a former General Secretary, Mrs. Tarakeshwari Sicha while the top leaders differed on the desirability of this arrangement.

There is a deep contradiction in the Congress(U) attitude towards the marxists. In West Bengal the party as evidenced by the attitude of Mr. P. R. Das Munshi, is ranged against the CPI(M) in a posture of bitter hostility. In Kerala, the Congress(U) is an ally of the CPI(M) in the ruling coalition and the State leader, Mr. A. K. Antony is for extending the alliance to other areas.

The Congress(U) does not present an edifying spectacle, at a time when its interest demands anything but the present attitude of its leaders. It faced not only the crisis of identity but also of internal management.

CSO: 4220

BASU: CONGRESS(I) WORKS AGAINST BENGAL GOVERNMENT

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Mar 81 p 6

[Text] Bangalore, March 9.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mr Jyoti Basu, accused the Congress(I) in his State of creating a law and order problem in its attempt to topple the marxist Government.

Mr Jyoti Basu alleged at a press conference here today that the Congress(I) party members in West Bengal were "killing each other and killing others" so that a law and order problem could be created for giving a handle to the Centre to topple the Government. The immediate impact of the talk of attempts to topple his Government was the disruptive effect it had on the administration.

Never before had he come across any Prime Minister making a reference to another State in the manner Mrs. Gandhi had been doing.

Mr Basu claimed that West Bengal was "one of the best administered States" in the country; there were no communal riots and attacks on Harijans and the labour front was peaceful.

Projects Not Cleared

The West Bengal Chief Minister said his impression was that there was "No Government at the Centre" as no decisions were taken by it over several issues concerning the State. Several projects such as a ship repair yard and an electronics complex had not yet been cleared by the Centre and they were hanging fire for the last one year.

On the food-for work front, he said Mrs. Gandhi's Government "gave a lot of trouble". It refused to accept his Government's claim of 90 per cent of work done under the programme. The President was approached but he pleaded his inability.

Mr Basu said everyone could see the good work done by his Government specially in the countryside, where there was work at present for the agricultural workers for 10 to 11 months in a year.

Referring to Assam, he complimented the Centre on resumption of oil pumping and the protection that was being accorded to minorities there. Commending the

Centre for keeping the doors open on the Assam question, he said negotiations should not be ruled out.

Language Question

Expressing the view that English could not be dispensed with particularly in the realm of higher education, he was of the view that the Central Government's administration should be in both English and Hindi and that Hindi should not be imposed on non-Hindi speaking States. Claiming credit for infusing some order in the educational field in West Bengal, he said that uncertainty about examinations, results and mass copying had all been eliminated by his Government. The medium of instruction was the mother tongue up to class five and English was being taught from class six to class 12.

Mr Basu disfavoured transfer of judges from one State to another. On the prolonged strike by Central Government employees in Bangalore, he said it was sad to see that nobody seemed to be bothered about it. It could not have happened in West Bengal. He disapproved of the "cavalier way" of dealing with the trade unions by the Union Government.

Work on the second massive bridge across the Hooghly in Calcutta had been resumed and it was scheduled to be completed in the next two years, he said. Several on-going projects had been taken up by his Government to improve the power situation in the State. He expected the position to improve by the middle of this year.

CSO: 4220

CONGRESS(I) LEADERS COMMENT ON BASU CHARGES

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 11.

Maintaining that the Centre has no intention to topple the West Bengal Government, Central Congress (I) leaders today blamed the State Chief Minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, for producing advance alibis for the collapse to which, according to them, his Government was heading.

Mr. Basu's charges, levelled at a Bangalore press conference, evoked unusual attention in the ruling party in sharp contrast to the indifference of the past. Also, the tendency to search for motives for Mr. Basu's criticism of the Centre was stronger now than in the past.

This was not the only thing that spotlighted the issues arising from relationship between the Centre and non-Congress(I) State Governments. In the Lok Sabha, the announcement that the Centre was "seriously considering" the appointment of an inquiry commission to look into the spirit scandal in Kerala and Tamil Nadu caused a big uproar.

The Opposition saw a political motive behind it and protested against the move for a central probe on an issue, on which the two State Governments had ordered inquiries.

Tottering under Its Own Weight

On behalf of the AICC(I), its General Secretary, Mr. Kalpnath Rai, issued a sharp rejoinder to Mr. Basu, saying that the West Bengal Government had failed because of its own policies and "we will not allow him to become a martyr as he was trying to project himself".

It was not necessary for the Centre, he said, to acquire political odium by toppling a government that had developed serious contradictions.

The truth, according to Mr. Rai, was that the West Bengal Government "is tottering under the weight of its own ill-jointed political allies", with the coalition partners pulling in different directions and demanding their respective shares, under a quota system, in all matters, including the appointment of Vice-Chancellors. [as published]

He found the Left Front Government a divided house in the same way that the Janata regime had been at the Centre between 1977 and 1979.

He denied that the State Congress (O) had tried to create a law and order problem in West Bengal and, instead, wanted Mr Basu to explain why the workers of parties, other than those of the ruling group, were subjected to hardships.

Sivsaiy he refused the charge that the Central Government was anti-labour and, in turn, blamed Mr Basu for having extended support to the pro-capitalist Janata Government.

Verification of Antecedents

Another issue concerning the non-Congress (O) States — mode of verification of antecedents of candidates from West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura — was the subject of a Lok Sabha question by Mr A. Patankar and Mr P. J. Kurian.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr P. Venkateswara Rao, said the antecedents of such candidates were got verified by the Intelligence Bureau.

He said: "The verification of antecedents, which has been adopted as a usual practice for screening candidates for employment in Government service, the prescribed application form furnished by the candidate is referred to the district authorities.

"Where the Government feels that more information would be required to determine the suitability of the persons to its satisfaction, it is open to the Government to obtain further material or information from any of its available agencies as it may consider fit."

Accordingly, instructions were issued to appointing authorities for having the character and antecedents of candidates from Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura verified from the Intelligence Bureau.

CSO: 4220

REPORT ON INDIAN DELEGATE'S SPEECH IN BANGKOK

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Mar 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] India today deplored the intensification of protectionist policies by developed countries and pleaded for a coherent package of reforms in the fields of trade, finance, industrialisation and agriculture.

Speaking at the 37th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) here, the Union commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, referred to the steady deterioration in world economic conditions over the past decade and said, "The world economic outlook for 1981 appears bleak--economic activity has slowed down, unemployment has increased and the problem of intractable inflation continues."

The developing countries continued to face exceptional balance of payments disequilibria and deterioration in their terms of trade. There was a slackening of import demand in developed countries and protectionist policies were being intensified. There was a growing awareness that the problems facing the world economy were not cyclical but were the result of deep-seated structural imbalances.

Mr. Mukherjee regretted that the international climate for economic negotiations had suffered a series of setbacks in the past year. The failures of UNIDO-III had been followed by the stalemate in the negotiations for launching the global round of negotiations.

He said the present ESCAP session was taking place at a time when 'we have available with us the consensus of the strategies to be adopted by all of us for our development during the decade of 1980's.' It was a matter of regret that some developed countries did not accept the international development strategy for the third UN development decade in its entirety, but chose to make interpretative statements amounting to reservations on certain vital aspects. [as published]

The commerce minister said that ESCAP had an important role to play inasmuch as the strategy entrusted to it the responsibility of review and appraisal at the regional level. ESCAP should, therefore, consider the elaboration of regional and sub-regional strategies in the light of the finalisation of the new international development strategy as a matter of priority. It should conduct an annual review to assess the implementation of major aspects of the strategy.

Mr. Mukherjee called for a well integrated and coherent package of reforms in the fields of trade, money and finance, industrialisation and agriculture to be expeditiously devised. The crucial issues facing the world in the 1980s would be markedly different both qualitatively and quantitatively from those in the past. Accordingly, both the scale and time horizon over which remedial measures should be devised would be very different.

It was this broad perception which lay behind the insistence of developing countries that such remedial measures could not be limited to marginal changes here and there in the present economic order. There was need for the adoption of deliberate policies to encourage and facilitate the progress of structural adjustment.

Mr. Mukherjee said the need for international commodity arrangements had never been greater than in the present economic situation. The severe balance of payments difficulties facing developing countries could be partially eased if a wider and more effective network of commodity arrangements was evolved to offer a measure of export-earning security to developing countries. The future of the common fund was linked with the future of individual commodity arrangements. The consensus reached on the establishment of a common fund would give a fresh impetus to the work of concluding new international commodity arrangements.

Referring to the emergence of protectionist pressures, Mr. Mukherjee said that the outcome of the multilateral trade negotiations had left important problems of world trade liberalisation unresolved. There was no agreement on a multilateral safeguard system. The results fell short of expectations on the reduction of quantitative restrictions and liberalisation of agricultural trade. While the tariff policies of developed countries had followed a trend towards trade liberalisation, the use of non-tariff barriers as trade policy instruments had continued to gain strength, thus reducing the effect on trade of liberal tariff policies.

Mr. Mukherjee stressed the need of adjustment assistance measures in the long run for achieving effective international division of labour based on dynamic comparative advantage. The comparative advantage of developing countries tended to lie in labour intensive projects, like clothing, textiles, leather and footwear. The exports of these products, which were subjected to restrictions, were the main source of foreign exchange earnings for many developing countries. Such restraints would substantially reduce the capacity of developing countries to import products needed for development and, as a result would inhibit the expansion of world trade.

The commerce minister asked ESCAP to support the efforts of the developing countries to fight the protectionist tendencies in the developed countries. He said textile exports were of considerable importance to the developing countries of the region and he called upon ESCAP to extend all necessary help at the coming multi-fibre arrangement negotiations in strengthening the bargaining capabilities of the developing countries.

Mr. Mukherjee called for greater economic co-operation and increased trade among the developing countries of the region. He also emphasised the need for harnessing as rapidly as possible energy resources, both actual and potential, in the developing countries.

SHEIKH REPORTS ON SPIES, SMUGGLERS IN JAMMU, KASHMIR

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Jammu, March 9.

Fortysix Pakistani spy-rings, involving 85 persons, have been unearthed in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years, Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah informed the State Assembly today during question-hour. [as published]

Replying to three separate questions on the subject tabled by BJP members, the Sheikh added that Pakistan-made arms and ammunition were seized from the spies. These included 12 rifles, 8 revolvers, 65 cartridges and one hand bomb.

The Chief Minister said that 16 more persons had been arrested during this period for spying for Pakistan in different parts of the State. The number of persons held for illegal crossing of border was 427 in the last two years.

Giving details, the Chief Minister said the arrested spies included 8 Pakistani nationals and five persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Out of total of 10 persons arrested during this period for spying collectively or individually, 84 were held in Jammu division, 16 in Kashmir valley and one in Kargil district of Ladakh.

The Sheikh said ten cases involving 14 persons had been challenged in the courts. Eight of the accused had been convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment ranging from two years to four years. Investigations are in progress in rest of the cases.

The House was also informed that 48 persons had been arrested for smuggling across the border during this period. Items seized from them included 22 bottles of Indian whisky, two kilos of charas, five Pak-made revolvers with 30 rounds, one pistol and one rifle.

Meanwhile, the Speaker today announced in the House that he was considering an Opposition member's motion seeking revocation of suspension of four Opposition MLAs from the Assembly for rest of the session.

The issue came up as a special mention by Mr Kabli (Janata) who said that suspension of MLAs was an extremely harsh penalty. He urged the Chief Minister to adopt

a forget and forgive attitude in the matter, especially as the House was discussing the demands for grants.

These members were suspended for 'defiance of the Chair and obstructing business of House'.

During zero hour Deputy Speaker Janak Raj Gupta urged the Chief Minister to look into demands of West Pakistan refugees settled in the State for the last 34 years, but deprived of full citizenship rights.

It may be recalled that thousands of these refugees yesterday crossed the border at Suchetgarh to demonstrate their protest against the lukewarm attitude of the Government.

CSO: 4220

KERALA LEFT DEMOCRATIC FRONT HOLDS CONVENTION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Cochin, March 9.

The ruling Left Democratic Front in Kerala emerged more stronger and united from the first State-level convention of its frontline workers held here after the six-party set-up assumed office a year ago.

About 5,000 workers belonging to CP-M, CPI, RSP Cong-U Kerala Congress and All India Muslim League drawn from all parts of the State, representing different district LDF units, in a joint declaration adopted at the convention resolved to subordinate party considerations and sectional interests to their common commitment of carrying out the popular mandate speedily and effectively. This implied arriving at jointly agreed decisions on administrative and political issues through mutual discussions. Similarly, inter-party differences too would be sorted out in a democratic manner.

Chief Minister E K Nayanar presided over the convention. In a forceful speech, he declared that the reality of left and democratic parties coming together and sharing power on the basis of a common programme had to be preserved and strengthened.

He charged that the Central Government and the Cong-I leadership were engaged in a conspiracy to deprive the States of their powers. The moves to reduce the State Governments into municipalities. [as published]

Such authoritarian trends if left unchecked would endanger the democratic structure of the country as a whole, Chief Minister warned.

The eight-page joint declaration also had its main thrust against Central policies, blaming it for most of the economic ills faced by the State.

The resolutions adopted by the convention also related to Central policies that went against the interests of the State.

The resolution on the plan said that Kerala did not get its legitimate share from the Centre for the sixth plan also as in the previous years. The plan allocation of Rs 1,500 crores was inadequate to meet the problems of unemployment and to

take the State to the level of development reached by other States. The neglect of Kerala was also apparent in denying its due share in the loans and in the allocation of special funds.

The convention wanted the Centre to raise the plan allocations to Kerala or to raise its share by other means.

Top party leaders A K Antony (Cong-U), P K Vasudevan Nair (CPI) both former Chief Ministers, V S Achuthanandan (CPM), Baby John (RSP), George Mathew (KC-M) and P M Aboobacker (AIML) spoke at the convention.

CSO: 4220

ALL-INDIA COMMUNIST PARTY'S CONFERENCE OPENS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] The first national conference of the All-India Communist Party opened here this afternoon with a call from party general-secretary Roza Deshpande for consolidating democratic revolution in cooperation with that section of the national bourgeoisie which was committed to expansion of the public sector and friendship with the socialist countries.

The three-day conference is being held on the Tyagi Hostel grounds. The venue has been named "P C Joshi Nagar." The plenary session is to be held on the concluding day on 14 March, when Mr S A Dange is expected to be present for informal talks with the delegates." [As published]

Mr Dange will also address a public meeting on 15 March organised jointly by the AICP and the Cong-I to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the Meerut Conspiracy case. Apart from others, UPCC-I president B P Pande is also expected to address the rally.

Achraya Deeparkar read out a message from Mr Dange at the conference, wishing it success.

Dange Line

In her inaugural address, Mrs Deshpande attacked the CPI leadership for alleged "authoritarian style of functioning" and politics of opportunism and betraying Communist cause by joining hands with rank reactionaries like Mr Charan Singh, Mr Morarji Desai and Mr George Fernandes when they were in the Janata Party. She also opposed the CPI efforts to build unity with the CPI-M.

Mrs Deshpande said the new party was created to pursue the line developed by Mr Dange, which underlined communist unity with nationalist forces opposed to monopolists and imperialists. The line aimed at consolidating democratic revolution and eventually forming a national front in Delhi.

She said that Mr Dange's line advocated cooperation with Mrs Indira Gandhi because she and her Government represented that part of the national bourgeoisie which was committed to expansion of public sector, friendship with the Socialist countries and continuing fight against monopolists and US imperialists and Chinese expansionists.

Mrs Deshpande added that even the Soviet Union had offered to help her Government in a big way because it believed that she and her Government were leading the country on the path of fight against monopolies and exploiters within the country and the imperialists overseas.

CSO: 4220

SHEIKH: CONGRESS(I) ENGINEERING DEFECTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Jammu, March 10.

Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah today accused the State Cong-I of engineering defections from the ruling National Conference and restarting propaganda against the Government in order to "fulfil its undeclared objective" of toppling him.

Replying to the debate on demands for grants for departments under his charge, the Sheikh disclosed that the State Government was being "falsely accused" of encouraging infiltration from Pakistan. Refuting the charge, he said that it was fantastic to think that infiltration could take place in the manner that was sought to be made out with army, BSF and various other agencies guarding the State's borders against these very intrusions. Without naming the Cong-I but pointing towards the Cong-I benches in the House, the Sheikh alleged that they were "engineering defections from our ranks by offering cash inducements."

He said the Cong-I had been trying all sorts of propaganda to malign the State Government outside.

This campaign, he said began with the false charge that he was colluding with the Jana Sangh and Jamate-Islami for encouraging communalism in the State. When the charge did not stick other tricks were attempted. [as published]

Having failed in these propagandist attempts, "they now accuse me of encouraging infiltration from Pakistan," he said and added that while he did not want to fight against "them" or anybody else "they are persisting in their anti-democratic tactics which is not good."

When Cong-I member Beli Ram interrupted him saying that the game of defections had been started by the National Conference, the Sheikh denied it and said "you are doing great harm to the country by indulging in all these anti-democratic ways like inducing defections and spreading propaganda to malign us."

He claimed that contrary to the propaganda of his detractors, the law and order situation in the State continued to be sound and stable. "Jammu and Kashmir is an open book. Let anybody come and see things for himself. It is an unhealthy and harmful trend to resort to false propaganda," he remarked.

The Sheikh refuted the charge of political interference in the police and said that was a thing of past. He described as "baseless" the charge levelled by Cong-U leader Bhim Singh that he was tortured with lighted cigarettes in police lock up and that heads of four of his colleagues were shaved by the police.

He defended the continued arrest of four colleagues of Mr Bhim Singh and alleged that they were "known for their criminal activities."

CSO: 4220

GANDHI REPORTS DOCK SECURITY IN BOMBAY TIGHTENED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Feb 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb. 19.—Mrs Gandhi assured the Rajya Sabha today that security measures in and around the Mazagaoon Docks in Bombay had been tightened after two British civilians were caught taking photographs of the Bombay Naval Docks.

Indeed, it was the persistence of Mr A. G. Kulkarni (Cong-U) and other Opposition members which prompted the Prime Minister to give an assurance during question hour. But she did explain to the members that in a satellite age, mere photography did not mean anything.

Spying activities relating to the taking of photographs had become an obsolete technique. Ships of the Indian Navy and buildings could be photographed via satellite and transmitted to the concerned country. However "we must remain vigilant in all these matters. We have issued fresh instructions to tighten security and introduce new instructions relating to security arrangements during the training of security men" she said.

Mr Kulkarni and Mr Satyanarayan Reddy (LD) felt that the two Britons caught for taking photographs should not have been let off. Mr Rameshwar Singh (LD) invited protests from the treasury benches when he alleged that the Government was "inept and inefficient" on the security front.

The Prime Minister said the Navy had investigated and found no element of espionage. She also pointed

ed out that it was not in the public interest to reveal the counter-espionage activities.

Replies to the main question, the Minister of State for Defence, Mr Shivraj Patil, told Mr Kulkarni that the incident which took place in November 1979 did involve bottom-searching of INS Rajput. The persons caught were civilians and not frogmen as stated by the member.

He assured members that the two persons were let off only after Indian Navy personnel were convinced that espionage was not the motive. He said the camera used was confiscated and the film seized. The two persons readily gave up their cameras. According to him, two cadets of the Royal Navy were seen taking pictures, but the photographs proved to be of ordinary buildings. They had not taken pictures of any important building. Mr Patil said.

Mr Kulkarni said that every goodwill visit was a "spying visit." He wondered why the Government was taking the incident "lightly". Mr Bhupesh Gupta (CPI) said the Government's explanation that the British authorities had denied espionage was not the issue. In fact no Government ever admitted that it was indulging in spying. Why did the Indian Government accept the British explanation? he asked.

CSO: 4220

LAW MINISTER STATES STAND ON CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 10.--The Law Minister, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, told the Lok Sabha today that it was "a matter of policy" that Section 3 of the 44th Constitution Amendment Act was yet to be enforced.

"Suppose we decide to repeal it", he added, implying that then there would be no need to enforce the particular Section.

He made his meaning clearer, although again by implication, when he reminded the House that under the previous Government, several Sections of the 42nd Amendment Act were not implemented "until they were repealed", and that indeed even Section 3 of the 44th Amendment was not enforced.

The Law Minister was answering a supplementary by Mr Ram Jethmalani (BJP), to a question by Mr Mool Chand Daga (Congress-I), on statutes not yet enforced.

Section 3 of the 44th Amendment alters Article 22 of the Constitution, relating to "protection against arrest and detention in certain cases". It provides specifically that no law for preventive detention shall authorize detention for more than two months, except where a duly constituted advisory board hold otherwise, and that, in any case, the period shall not exceed the maximum to be prescribed by an enactment of Parliament.

In his principal question, Mr Daga asked for details of statutes which have been passed by Parliament but have not been brought into force so far and the reasons for such non-implementation. He also asked whether the Government proposed to repeal them or to enforce them.

The Law Minister's reply, which caused dismay among some members and surprised laughter among some others, was that "information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House".

As Mr Daga objected to the reply, the Minister told him the difficulty was that it was not the Law Ministry which had to supply the information but various administering Ministries.

He added: "I am aware of quite a lot of legislation which have not been enforced. Even some legislation relating to 1947 have not been brought into force".

Answering supplementaries, he mentioned that the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1947 was one such. Another instance, he said, was the Wakfs Act, which has yet to be enforced in some States.

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISTS SEEK UNITED FRONT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] The Revolutionary Socialist Party has called for development of a united front of Leftist and socialist parties in the country.

A political resolution adopted at the special plenum of the RSP's 11th National Conference, which met in Kanpur from 1 to 4 March, said only an "united leftist leadership could provide effective leadership to the vast masses of toiling people on the basis of a militant programme oriented to realisation of their minimum class demands".

It was convinced that an "united front of leftist and socialist parties would be capable of mobilising different sections of the toiling people into a militant movement for the immediate transformation of the capitalist status quo on the basis of toilers' power and social ownership of all means of production and effectively move towards the realisation of authentic socialism".

It said the RSP was opposed to "any opportunist political alliance with any section of the non-Left bourgeois parties which only confused the people and blurred the political class lines".

The plenum welcomed the participation of the Kerala State RSP, which had broken away from the all-India RSP over 10 years ago. It decided to authorise the Kerala State Committee as the party's unit in Kerala before the formal process of reunification of the unit into the parent body was complete.

In separate resolutions, the party demanded immediate resumption of negotiations between the Central Government, the agitators, minorities and non-Assamese, and all national Opposition parties as well as political parties of Assam with a view to settling the foreign nationals problem; it assailed sharply the Congress-I Ministry and leadership in Gujarat for their ineptitude in handling the caste agitation in the state. [as published]

CSO: 4220

DELHI FEARS SPREAD OF GUJARAT-TYPE AGITATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 11.--The Centre believes that the anti-reservation agitation in Gujarat will peter out gradually if it is handled with care and caution. But it is watching with growing concern the spread of a similar movement in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, and the sympathy the Gujarat agitation is attracting in Haryana and elsewhere.

In Lucknow, according to reports, a large number of Central Government employees opposing reservations on a caste-basis in Government services, took out a procession and later held a meeting near the Vidhan Sabha building. An anti-reservation stir has begun in Sirohi and Jalore districts of Rajasthan.

The Gujarat Chief Minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, has been reportedly advised by the Prime Minister to concede what is possible within the framework of the reservation policy, and not to negotiate on the principle or have a dialogue with the medicos till they agree to call off agitation.

Evidently, during the discussions Mr Solanki had in Delhi with Mrs Gandhi and the State M.P.s, it was recognized that the situation had to be tackled with tact, lest it had repercussions elsewhere.

Though the Bharatiya Janata Party and the RSS have been blamed for the Gujarat trouble, it is well known that the rift between the Chief Minister and Mr Yogendra Makwana, Union Minister of State for Home affairs, has contributed in no small measure to the problem. A speech by Mr Makwana at a meeting in Baroda is being cited as an example to prove this point. It is only for public consumption and for the sake of record that both leaders have denied that there was any difference of opinion between them.

At the same time, it is realized here that had Mr Solanki agreed in time to concede the medicos demand relating to "carryforward", "interchangeability" and the "roster" method, the agitation would have lost its edge.

In political circles, there is a feeling that the agitating students are "riding a tiger". They cannot call off the agitation at their will. Not having taken the help of any political party, they do not know where to stop, and the threat of the LIC and other Government employees to join the fray, makes the situation all the more uncertain.

SHEIKH SAYS JAMMU, KASHMIR GUARANTEE 'NOT SACROSANCT'

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah said in the State Assembly today that Article 370 of the Constitution, guaranteeing special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was 'not sacrosanct'.

He added that this provision could be abrogated 'if changing imperatives so demanded and the people of the State also wanted it'.

The Sheikh was replying to a constitutional point raised in special mention by Abdul Rashid Kabli (Janata). Mr Kabli had said that the Sheikh in his recent press statement in this regard had given rise to certain serious misgivings and that it did not reflect the aspirations of the House.

The Sheikh said there was no cause for misgivings the article 370 was the creation of a peculiar set of circumstances existing in 1974 and leading the States 'conscious voluntary decision' to accede to the Indian union. [as published] The article was consequently evolved and adopted to accommodate imperatives of that particular situation.

The Sheikh said that the conditions keep on changing and so do their consequential imperatives. 'If at any stage people of the State feel that the Article needed to be modified or even abrogated for closer integration of the State with the rest of the country or for any other valid reason, there was nothing to prevent it. [as published] This provision was not sacrosanct and can be abrogated in accordance with the prescribed procedure envisaging a Presidential order with the approval of the constituent assembly of the State'.

The Chief Minister said that it was unwise to look at this issue only from two extreme positions. He explained that while at one end there were those who wanted the article to go now and here without consideration for the will of the people and at other extreme were those who believed that this was sacrosanct and therefore could not be touched come what may.

He said that both these positions 'are not correct' nor are they valid according to the letter and spirit of this provision.

He however, asserted that there could be no unilateral action in this regard. He added that not even the constitution itself was permanent in that sense. We are

on a firm ground in this connection, he said. The Sheikh's assertion marks a significant departure from his earlier rigid stand on this issue. His position so far was that the 'Article 370 and accession are interdependent'. Thanks to Sheikhs own strong views on it in the past, this question has acquired sensitive political dimensions in Kashmir. [as published]

Pandemonium prevailed in the House when the Sheikh in course of his speech, referred to the demands of Ladakhi agitators and said that 'personally I am of the opinion that no region could be forced to remain with the State against its will and if the Ladakhis wanted that their region should become a union territory I cannot prevent them.'

The Cong-I members raised a storm over this observation and BJP member Rishabh Kumar Kaushal said that if the Sheikh had talked in similar terms to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, then this was a 'sign of your (Sheikh's) weakness'. Another member Harbans Lal Bhagotra pointed out that the boundaries of the State could be altered only by the State legislature and not by the centre as was specified in the State's separate constitution.

The Sheikh said that he had conveyed to Mrs Gandhi that if the demand for Ladakhis separation from the State was conceded then it would sow the seeds of disintegration of the State 'which is the last thing I would like to see'. [as published]

He explained that while talking to Mrs Gandhi, he had this also in his mind that she was also leader of the party that was spearheading the agitation in Ladakh as no party exists there.

CSO: 4220

BENGAL LEFT FRONT TO UNITE IN CIVIC ELECTIONS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Calcutta, March 12 (UNI)--The ruling Left Front in West Bengal will contest the civic poll in 90 towns on 31 May in alliance with the CPI and other progressive and democratic elements, according to Front chairman Promode Dasgupta.

The civic election in Calcutta, Howrah and three other towns will be held later.

Candidates for 1,542 seats in 90 civic bodies would be finalised by the district Left Front committee, Mr Dasgupta told newsmen after a Front meeting here. Any dispute over the selection of candidates would be referred to the State Front Committee, he added.

The Front would contest the poll with an election manifesto and with party of free symbols though the citizens committees might be formed at local levels if necessary, to accommodate the allies, he said.

The total number of voters enrolled on the basis of 18 years of age for the 90 bodies is about 3.8 million.

CSO: 4220

DELHI TO DISCUSS REFUGEE ISSUE WITH JAMMU, KASHMIR

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 81 p 5

[Text]

THE Centre is taking up with the Jammu and Kashmir Government the issue of rehabilitating permanently about 2,750 refugee families who had come to India in 1947 and are now staging a dharna in the Pakistan-occupied territory near Jammu.

Replying to a calling attention motion moved by Mr L K Advani and Mr Abdul Rehman Sheikh, Rehabilitation Minister Bhagwat Jha Azad said the Centre was concerned at the plight of these refugees and would take up with the State Government their demand for citizenship rights in the State.

The Minister said these refugees were citizens of India and could vote in parliamentary elections. The difficulty arose because the separate Constitution of J and K. The J and K Constitution order of 1954 laid down that to be a State citizen a person should have been living in the State 10 years before the promulgation of the order or should have immovable property. Only State citizens could own property in J and K.

Mr K C Pant said the refugees who had been in India ever since independence, were so frustrated and desperate that they seemed willing to go back to the place they had once left.

Mr Azad said his Ministry was

studying the report of the Rajya Sabha petitions committee which had gone into the details of the issue and had made certain recommendations. Members were unanimous in appealing that the report be implemented soon.

Mr L K Advani, who moved the motion, said the refugees who had come to India in the wake of the 1947 and 1971 conflicts had been rehabilitated. Only those persons, who had come in 1947, had been denied the right. They could not vote in the Assembly elections could not get State Government jobs and were not entitled to State benefits.

Mr Advani and Abdul Rehman Sheikh said these refugees, mostly Harijans and other Scheduled Castes, had come from Sialkot and Shakargarh areas and numbered about 50,000.

Mr Advani said the matter needed sympathetic consideration by the Central and State Governments.

Mr Sheikh said Pakistan was exploiting the situation. Pakistan Television had played up the

report. The State was morally obliged to find a solution to the problems of these refugees.

During the discussion, Mr Sheikh and Mr Manubhai Patel clashed with National Conference member Ghulam Mohinuddin Shawl who said "another Assam will not be allowed to come in J and K". Mr Shawl said no one could own property unless he was a citizen of the State. "We cannot allow this", he added.

Mr Sheikh and Mr Patel took objection to the member's use of the pronoun 'we'. Was he speaking on behalf of the Government, they said.

Mr Manubhai Patel said no one should take a technical view of the matter. Jammu and Kashmir was a part and parcel of India, the "crown of India", and every citizen of the country could go anywhere as guaranteed by the Constitution.

- J and K Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah's son Dr Farooq Abdullah watched the proceedings in the Rajya Sabha on the call attention motion from the Lok Sabha members' gallery.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER DESCRIBES SITUATION IN NAXALITE AREA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Mar 81 p 6

[Text] Mr Dababrata Banerjee, West Bengal's Minister for Panchayat and Jails, told reporters in Calcutta on Tuesday that villagers were terrorized since the Eastern Frontier Rifles had been deployed in three police station areas of West Dinajpur district to control Naxalite activities. Indiscriminate arrests were taking place, followed by torture in police custody, he added.

Mr Banerjee, who had recently gone to the Itahar, Kushmandi and Bangshihari areas of the district, was the first Minister of the Left Front Government to visit the villages where Naxalites had allegedly snatched a large number of guns from landlords. He said he would soon submit a report to the Chief Minister about the situation in the area.

The Minister said that many people had told him that some policemen in the area were "hand in glove" with Congress (I) leaders of the district. Such policemen were arresting CPI(M) and RSP members and trying to harass them, taking advantage of the situation created by Naxalite activities.

The Minister cited the instance of Mr Jadunath Soren and Mr Asgar Ali Mandal, both RSP members, who had been arrested recently in police operations in the area. Mr Mandal was allegedly tortured at the Itahar and Bangshihari police stations. Such "indiscriminate arrests" he said, had led to such a situation that "EPR terror" had surpassed "Naxalite terror", the Minister alleged.

Mr Banerjee received a number of complaints during his tour of the affected area suggesting police connivance in the entire episode. Primary teachers of Kushmandi and Itahar areas reportedly told him that incidents of gun-snatching had been taking place for a long time and not within a span of a couple of days. The police, it was alleged, were aware of the episodes. Besides, some landlords told him that they had offered to surrender their guns to the police, fearing trouble, but the police did not respond in time. In the meantime, the looting took place.

The Minister said that the activity of Naxalites was concentrated at Pratirajpur Berail and Syedpur gram panchayat areas. He stressed the need for curbing Naxalite influence in the area by political campaigns.

The West Bengal Police authorities said that 43 people had so far been arrested in connexion with the gun-snatching in the areas.

CSO: 4220

CPI VETERAN WOUNDED IN DEMONSTRATION DIES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Feb 81 pp 1,4

[Text] Patna, Feb 19--Veteran trade union and CPI leader Kedar Das, who was injured in a lathi-charge by TISCO security guards on 15 February, today died of brain haemorrhage at Jamshedpur. His funeral takes place tomorrow. Most of the CPI leaders headed by party's central secretariat member Jagannath Sarkar left for the steel city this afternoon.

Mr Kedar Das virtually achieved martyrdom in the cause of the working class. Although keeping an indifferent health for some time and living in Patna most of the time, he rushed to Jamshedpur to lead the struggle of the contract labour against the TISCO management. He was leading a demonstration which was lathi-charged on 15 February.

The system of contract labour has been abolished in most of the industries in Jamshedpur as a result of tripartite agreement reached earlier. But the TISCO management refused to fall in line.

Mr Kedar Das, born in an humble family in Madhubani lived a life full of struggle against the tycoons of Jamshedpur.

In 1939 Mr Das along with Hazara Singh and Pyara Singh organized a massive strike in Indian Steel Wire Products Limited. Both Hazara Singh and Pyara Singh were killed--one crushed under the wheels of a truck and the other shot dead.

Kedar Babu, while paying his homage to the two leaders had taken a vow to fight against the Tatas all his life--a vow kept till his last breath.

Mr Das was a member of the Bihar Assembly from 1957 to 1962 and again from 1972 to 1977. He was also a member of the national council of the CPI and a member of the State executive of the party.

Paying his tributes to Mr Das, Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra said "the life of Mr Kedar is a shining example of dedication to a cause of honesty. His was a life that will inspire the working class for a long time to come he said.

POR WORKERS SEEK SCRAPPING OF FARAKKA PACT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Five-thousand workers of Calcutta and Haldia ports as well Central Inland Water Transport Corporation have urged the Government to ensure a minimum supply of 40,000 cusecs of head water from the Farakka barrage to the Bhagirathi-Hooghly channel throughout the year, and to scrap the Farakka agreement between India and Bangladesh as it was detrimental to Calcutta and Haldia ports.

This request is embodied in a memorandum the workers signed and submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar on behalf of the Calcutta regional committee of the Shipping Employees' Federation of India and unions of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation of India.

The memorandum was presented to the Speaker by AITUC general secretary Indrajit Gupta MP, CITU secretary Dr M K Pandhe and CPI-M leader Samar Mukherjee on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference in the Capital on Wednesday, the delegation members pointed out that the flow of 40,000 cusecs of water throughout the year was essential for improving the channel's navigability and to expand the inland water transport system (for which the Union Government had recently sanctioned Rs 34 crore).

They underlined that, being a riverine port, the fortunes of Calcutta were linked with the Bhagirathi-Hooghly river's navigability but the river was facing a severe crisis due to inadequate water.

They said it was the view of experts of international repute that to maintain navigability 40,000 cusecs of headwater from Farakka were needed. The commissioning of the barrage since 1975 caused an improvement in the upper reaches of the river.

Unfortunately, according to the Farakka agreement with Bangladesh, only 20,000 cusecs of water was to flow through the river in the lean months. As a result the navigational channel in the vicinity of Calcutta could offer a draft of 26 feet for only 30 days last year. The supply of headwater from Farakka barrage came down to merely 10,000 to 13,000 cusecs, causing such a sharp fall in the depth of the river and at many points in the Bhagirathi-Hooghly that even small wooden barges could not operate, they added.

SHEKHAR SPEAKS TO JANATA PARTY OFFICIALS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 15

[Text] Bangalore, March 8: The Janata party will keep a low profile and organise the party to face the challenges of the future, instead of competing with other opposition parties to hit newspaper headlines of claiming to provide a national alternative immediately. [as published]

According to Mr. Chandra Shekhar, party president, the Janata will enter the long and arduous task of preparing the people to respond to national issues in a responsible way. "We are not interested in publicity and propaganda and we do not want to make tall claims," he said.

The party was prepared to co-operate with other political parties on equal terms and not for the sake of joining the so-called progressive forces. "We do not want to fish in troubled waters and exploit a difficult situation."

Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who addressed the office-bearers of the Janata party in Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Goa, charged Mrs. Gandhi with following a policy of drift on several issues.

She seemed to have lost the capacity to take decisive action because she had destroyed the credibility and honour of the institutional system, not only of Parliament and political parties, but of her own party. No other person except herself could claim to be a leader of the Congress (I). The problem with Mrs. Gandhi was that she functioned with a capital "I," he said.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar shared Mr. Morarji Desai's feeling that there would be a mid-term poll. Nobody had expected Mrs. Gandhi's credibility to collapse so soon as this, he said.

A convention of Janata party workers of the six units will be held here on May 2 and 3.

CSO: 4220

ASSAM PROTESTS ALLEGED KIDNAPING BY NAGAS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 15

[Text] Shillong, March 8: The Assam government has lodged a strong protest with the Nagaland government over the alleged kidnapping and detention of 24 Assamese PWD labourers and demanded their immediate release.

The Assam armed police have been alerted all along the disputed Assam-Nagaland boundary and the state's commissioner of the plains division has been directed to contact his counterpart in Nagaland to secure the release of the labourers.

The labourers, engaged in road construction work in the Sonari circle of Sibsagar district, were allegedly kidnapped by Nagaland officials with the help of Nagaland villagers from the Namtola area on the boundary on wednesday. [as published]

They were produced before the sub-divisional officer of Tizit (Nagaland), who directed that they may be sent to the deputy commissioner of Mon. The kidnapped people were still in the custody of the Nagaland authorities.

The deputy commissioner of Jorhat had already contacted the deputy commissioner of Mon in connection with the incident.

CSO: 4220

NARAIN EXPLAINS JANATA(S) CHANGE OF NAME

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Janata-S leader Raj Narain has announced the dissolution of his year-old party and formation of the "Socialist Party" in its place.

The new party, Mr Raj Narain said in New Delhi on Sunday, would strive for a "socialist, national alternative" to meet the complex situation. Hence his appeal to all socialists everywhere to unite under the banner of the Socialist Party.

He said a decision to this effect was taken by the national executive of the party at its meeting on Saturday. In a lengthy statement, party general secretary Bhola Prasad Singh said that the meeting came to the conclusion that the socialists in the original Janata Party had taken a correct stand in fighting the communal elements.

The decision of Mr Raj Narain who has been knocking at the doors of various Janata splinter groups and leaders for merger, shows his disillusionment with his efforts. His talks with the Janata Party did not materialise as a strong section in it opposed the move even after the jolt suffered by the staunchest anti-Raj Narain leader Subramaniam Swamy. Though Dr Swami has bowed out as Janata general secretary, most other leaders look down on Mr Raj Narain for his role in what they believe was splitting the party.

The new party, he said, would follow the ideology of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia.

The party which vows to work against "all pervasive corruption in the public life and the Government" has urged all "socialist forces" within the country to provide a national alternative "which alone could meet the complex situation".

The party will adopt "jail, spade, vote" as its means to achieve its objectives, a party press release said.

Mr Raj Narain said the Socialist Party would be headed by Mr Maniram Bagri as chairman. Mr Bhola Prasad Singh will be its general secretary and Mr Raghunath Gupta has been appointed the organising secretary of eastern zone.

Answering a question, he said he would not hold any position in the new party.

Replying to another question, he said the chairman of the existing Socialist Party, Mr Ramakant Pandey, had agreed to support the new party.

CSO: 4220

KERALA LEADER ALLEGES CONSPIRACY BY DELHI

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Cochin, March 8 (UNI)

Kerala Chief Minister E K Nayanar yesterday said the Centre was "conspiring" to deprive the State Governments of all major powers and reducing them to powerless bodies like municipalities.

Presiding over the first state-level convention of the ruling Left Democratic Front here, he criticised the 'outbursts' of certain Union Ministers that subjects like electricity, education, cinema and river waters would be added to the Concurrent list.

Mr Nayanar alleged that the Cong-I leadership was encouraging regional and communal forces to foment trouble.

The Chief Minister claimed that the LDF Government had established its bonafides through its first year's performance proving wrong the Cong-I statements that united fronts could not solve the problems of the people.

The convention adopted a "joint declaration" pledging to cement further the unity of left democratic forces" which alone could "ensure a new life to the people and all-round development of the state".

The convention, presided over by Mr Nayanar, was held at the historic Rajendra maidan. Most of the ministers and organisational leaders, including congress(U) leader A K Antony were present.

In the resolution, the convention alleged that the Congress-I leadership was taking the country towards presidential form of Government by subverting the federal character of the Constitution. [as published] It charged the Centre with showing 'political discrimination' against Kerala and posing the threat of dismissal of the ministry.

The resolution said that the Centre did not do justice to Kerala in the sixth plan allocations. While it invested Rs 15,667 crore in industries since independence, Kerala's share was merely Rs 382 crore, it said.

CSO: 4220

DEFENSE MINISTER ALLEGES RACKET IN WEAPONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 9.--The Minister of State for Defence, Mr Shivraj Patil, told the Lok Sabha today that it would be incorrect to conclude from the recent explosion at Agra that there was either a countrywide racket in sophisticated arms or a network of ammunition thieves "operating with the help of contacts in Army depots or ordnance factories".

He was making a statement in response to a call attention motion on the explosion moved by Mrs Pramila Dandavate (Janata) and three others, two of whom belonged to the Congress (I).

Mr Patil kept requesting the members not to cast aspersions on army men or make allegations against them. "Our jawans are doing very good work", he said repeatedly.

He told the members that it was for the police to find out facts relating to the explosion. Although the Defence Ministry was helping such an inquiry--since the material used by the defence personnel was involved neither the Ministry nor the Army had any responsibility in the matter.

Mr Patil faced strong criticism from his own party men. Mr Harish Chandra Singh Rawat, for instance, said that some "wrong elements" had infiltrated the Army and were responsible for the theft of ammunition. He asked: "How did the Agra utensils shop, where the explosion had occurred, happen to possess so much of Army material?"

Mr Mool Chand Daga referring to a Press report about the theft of arms, said that the news had not yet been denied. He wondered if that was confirmation of the report.

Mr Patil told him that he ought not form any apprehensions on the basis of Press reports.

In his statement, Mr Patil said that in the explosion on February 24 at the "Agra Bartan Bhendar" a firm dealing in utensils, two persons had been killed and four others injured. During investigation, heaps of cartridge cases and metal scraps were found on the shop.

Nine people were arrested, of whom three were owners of the firm and the six others their employees.

Mr Patil added that ordnance factories and depots had tight security arrangements. "There are no reports to suggest thefts of ammunition in the depots of the ordnance factories".

CSO: 4220

MORE DETAILS ON LAldENGA VISIT TO MIZO HEADQUARTERS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Mar 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] The formation of a united underground movement in the North-Eastern Region has been nipped in the bud, with the Union Government's decision to allow Mizo National Front Chief Laldenga to go to Arakan headquarters, reports UNI.

According to intelligence reports reaching New Delhi from Aizawl, the MNF's Arakan headquarters, with its made-to-order arms training facilities and indoctrination techniques, has of late been subjected to "pressures" from extremist elements in Manipur, Tripura and other places.

Viewed in this context, the MNF has hailed Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's decision to grant permission to Mr Laldenga to convene the national executive to formulate political demands for the settlement of the Mizo problem as a "positive step".

As reciprocatory gesture, the MNF has offered to close down its arms training centre at Arakan. It has also demanded the dismissal of the People's Conference Ministry headed by Brig T Sailo, describing it as "undemocratic" as it came to power in an election when Mizoram was declared a "disturbed area".

Mr Laldenga left for Calcutta on Sunday night en route to the Front's underground headquarters, confident that an overall settlement of the Mizo problem would be reached with the Centre within three months, adds PTI.

Mr Laldenga, who is accompanied by his wife, told PTI that he expected the MNF National executive to formulate its political demands in about two weeks after he reached the headquarters sometimes next week.

The MNF would then depute a delegation for talks with the Union Government to be held at New Delhi, he stated.

The MNF chief is visiting Aizawl after a gap of 15 years and the MNF headquarters after nine years. He came to Delhi with his family from abroad in 1978 to seek a political solution to the problem. He was detained during the Janata rule, but

cases against him had been withdrawn by Mrs Gandhi's Government.

Mr Laldenga said he was going to the party headquarters with the blessings of the Prime Minister. "She is the only leader who understands the problems of minorities in northeast India. She has the courage to face facts and has a desire to solve the problems", he stated.

Mr Laldenga felt that once the Mizo problem was settled, the revolutionary groups in whole of the northeast were expected to fall in line.

ROTHUAMA'S LETTER

Meanwhile, Dr Rothuama, the lone Lok Sabha member from the Union Territory, has corroborated the reported formation of a united underground movement in the North-Eastern Region in a letter to the Prime Minister some time last month continues UNI. The letter was

written soon after a fortnight's stay in Mizoram.

Dr Rothuama, who had worked behind the scenes for accelerating the pace of peace talks, warned Mrs Gandhi about an international conspiracy to sabotage the current peace talks.

The MP revealed that educated underground elements of Manipur and those of Tripura had been maintaining "active" personal contacts with MNF leaders in Arakan for some time now.

Dr Rothuama had informed Mrs Gandhi that there had been definite communication through various channels between the Mizo underground and some extremists in the current Assamese agitation for a joint movement.

He, however, clarified, that there has been no face-to-face contact between the Mizo underground and the extremist elements behind the Assamese agitation on foreigners issue.

These elements in Assam, Manipur, and Tripura, with the Naga underground divided, have been looking towards the MNP for providing effective leadership for launching a united underground movement.

SAILO'S OFFER

Meanwhile, Mizoram Chief Minister Brig T Sailo said in

Aizawl, adds PTI that in spite of Mr Laisheng's repeated attempts to tarnish the image of the ruling Peoples Conference Ministry, the people had not been 'misled' and peace continued to prevail in the Union Territory for the last one year.

Referring to Mr Laisheng's statement that he would like to

find a solution to the Mizoram problem within the framework of the Constitution and that he wanted an interim government in Mizoram as a prelude to a political settlement, the Chief Minister welcomed Laisheng's visit to Mizoram and asked him to face the elections constitutionally.

CSO: 4220

MUSLIM LEADERS ADDRESS ALL-INDIA JAMAAT SESSION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Feb 81 p 9

[Text] Hyderabad, February 20 (PTI). Moulana Mohammed Yusuf, Ammer-e-Jamaat, today called upon the Muslim community in the country to play an effective role in creating the spirit of unity and cooperation for the sake of "our national interest and in order to face the dangers emerging from crisis of character and prejudices of race, language and region.

He said he was hopeful that a force consisting of people belonging to various religions and communities would soon emerge, which would be fully devoted to constructive work.

"It is for this reason that we have created a circle of associates consisting of non-Muslims," the moulana said in his presidential address to the sixth all-India session of the Jamaat-e-Islami at the Wadi-e-Huda, about 15 km from here.

He said when the Jamaat was banned during the emergency, the 20-month period in jail provided an opportunity for its leaders to "remove the misunderstandings of thousands of non-Muslims and to convey the message of Islam."

Referring to the Moradabad incidents last year, the moulana lamented the attitude of the national press and a number of leaders, the administration and "some responsible" persons who blamed the Muslims for the riots. "It is the worst blow that can be inflicted on a community," he added.

Expressing concern over the atrocities on Harijans and other weaker sections of society, he alleged that the Central and state governments "are incapable of punishing the criminals and checking their activities."

The moulana said that "in Assam, Muslims and non-Assamese are being made target of oppression on the pretext of the foreigners issue. This tendency is spreading to Orissa and eastern states, which is a great danger for the unity and solidarity of the nation."

The moulana said the Communist parties in India had benefited the most from the general unrest, rise in prices of essential goods and economic hardships, political upheavals, portents of instability of state governments, weakened relationship between the Centre and the states and "the instability at the Centre itself."

He warned that if the communists ever came to power, the political freedom and human rights would meet the same fate as had been witnessed in communist countries.

"Indians should be on guard against the machinations of these parties," he added.

"No Political Morality"

Urging the Muslims to work for the advancement of the country at the moral, spiritual and material planes, he said "we should work not only for the reconstruction of our community and its progress, but also for the advancement and prosperity of the country."

Explaining the reasons for his party keeping aloof from parliamentary politics, he said that after the split in the Indian National Congress, a number of groups were fighting each other and there was hardly any trace of morality in the present day politics.

Defections and unseemly behaviour in Parliament and state legislatures had made a very bad impression on the people, particularly the youth, he added.

Referring to the international situation, the moulana said the stand taken by the government of India on the Afghanistan issue was in line with that of most other countries. The same had been demanded by the Jamaat and popular opinion of the country, he said.

He expressed satisfaction that there was increasing awareness among Muslim countries on the issue which received further impetus at the third Islamic summit.

Describing the Palestine issue as a "humanitarian and Islamic issue," the moulana alleged that the United States "in connivance with Israel, has frustrated the attempts to solve this issue at the level of the United Nations."

Moulana Syed Hamid Hussain, secretary of the Jamaat, also spoke on the role of the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind in the reconstruction of the country and the ummat (community).

Though one hundred organisations abroad were invited to send their representatives to the session of the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, only a handful of them could attend the session, as most of them were denied visas by the Indian missions abroad, a spokesman of the Jamaat alleged today.

Those delegates who applied for the visa a month or so ago could get it, whereas those who applied a few days ago were not granted visas, he said.

The spokesman said a delegation from Sri Lanka, led by the minister for transport, Mr A. H. Mohammed, was held up at Madras airport because of alleged discrepancies in their travel documents.

The president of Sri Lanka Jamaat-Islami, Mr Mohammed Lousuf, who arrived here yesterday, was granted visa only for a 72-hour stay here, the spokesman said.

Among the nine foreign delegates attending the session are: Shaik Abdul al Zayed, vice-chancellor, Islamic University, Medina; Shaik Omar Full Atah, secretary, Islamic University, Medina; Mrs Syed Zainab al Gazali of Ikhwanul Muslamee of Egypt; Dr Tamzeem Wasati, U.K. Islamic mission; and Dr Ahmed Tutoonji of the World Assembly of Muslim League, Riyadh.

CSO: 4220

HUSSAIN DENIES PLEA FOR ISLAMIZATION OF INDIA

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] Hyderabad, March 7.

Mr. Muzaffar Hussain, President, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Hyderabad has said in a statement that though his organisation stood for propagation of Islam it had at no stage pleaded for the "Islamisation" of India. [as published]

He was reacting to an allegation made by Mr. Vandematharam Ramachandra Rao, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Official Language Commission and Mr. Ramachandra Rao Kalyani, President A.P. Arya Pratinidhi Sabha.

Mr. Muzaffar Hussain said that Mr. Ramachandra Rao Kalyani had mixed up the cases of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind and similarly named organisation of Jammu and Kashmir.

The two organisations were independent.

The Kashmir Jamaat was a political organisation, but the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind did not participate in elections.

"Extra territorial loyalties" were something alien to the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, he said. As part of universal Islamic brotherhood, the Muslims felt special affinity with the co-religionists elsewhere. This did not constitute extra-territorial loyalty.

The expenses of the Jamaat were met by the donations and contributions of its sympathisers and its publications, he said.

CSO: 4220

MUSLIM CONGRESS(I) LEADERS IN RAJASTHAN UNHAPPY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] Jaipur, March 9.--Congress (I) legislators of the minority community in Rajasthan are reportedly unhappy about their inadequate representation in the 21-member State Council of Ministers. Some of them are stated to have conveyed their unhappiness to the senior party leaders in Delhi.

The State Ministry was expanded from its original strength of nine members to the present 21 in two quick instalments last month. Among the first nine members was a Muslim Deputy Minister but no further representation was given to the minority community.

The Deputy Minister's portfolio was changed after the ministry was expanded. Some observers say the Deputy Minister is a "loser", because of the change of his portfolio and the denial of an expected promotion to a higher rank in the three-tier Council of Ministers.

But the minority leaders in the Congress(I) say that the Deputy Minister's loss was entirely personal; even a gain in the allocation of a better portfolio or elevation to a higher rank would not have pleased the majority of the Muslims in the party.

There are nine Muslim and two Sikh Congress (I) legislators among the 137 party members. A Muslim leader said that the Chief Minister, Mr Jagannath Pahadia, had ignored the fact that the minorities had veered totally back to the Congress (I) soon after the debacle of the party in the 1977 general elections and, therefore, expected a "fair" representation in the State Ministry, which at the moment is dominated, community-wise, by Harijans.

Another leader of the minorities said that the present Chief Minister was worse than his Janata predecessor, who had kept just one member from the minority community as a Minister of State. Before Janata rule, Rajasthan had always at least one Cabinet Minister from the minority community and at one time, the State had a Muslim Chief Minister, Mr Barkatullah. The Sikhs have not been represented in the Ministry for several years.

CSO: 4220

CHIEF MINISTERS REVIEW PLAN FOR WESTERN GHATS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] A high-level chief ministers' meeting today reviewed the Rs. 150-crore outlay development programme for the Western Ghats launched in 1974.

Among those who participated in the deliberations, were the chief minister of Maharashtra, Mr. A. R. Antulay, the chief minister of Karnataka, Mr. R. Gundu Rao, the finance minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. V. R. Nedunchezian, the chief minister of Goa, Mr. Pratap Singh Rane, and the commissioner for Kerala, Mr. V. Ramachandran.

Addressing a news conference this afternoon, Mr. Antulay said the ministerial committee would also explore the possibility of establishing a Western Ghats development corporation headed by Mr. M. S. Swaminathan, member, planning commission. He would submit his report to the Western Ghats regional development council in the next six months.

Mr. Antulay said out of the Rs. 150 crores, Rs. 75 crores would be in the form of a "special assistance grant" from the Centre as part of the sixth five-year plan. And the remaining would have to be raised as loans and made good by the states, he added.

Maharashtra has been allotted Rs. 3.7 crores, Kerala (Rs. 2.67 crores), Karnataka (Rs. 2.28 crores), Tamil Nadu (Rs. 2.15 crores) and Goa (Rs. 15 lakhs).

Mr. Antulay said attempts would be made to establish a permanent secretariat for the Western Ghats to deal with the development of the region. "The main emphasis of the programme will be on the preservation of ecology. At the same time, ecological preservation will not be at cost of the people staying around the area," he said.

A committee headed by Dr. Nanjundiayya, secretary, planning, Karnataka government, would chalk out a scheme for setting up the permanent secretariat, Mr. Antulay said. The proposed secretariat would be on the pattern of the inter-state water board, he added.

Mr. Antulay said the scheme would try to improve communication, build link roads between villages and construct more bridges in the Western Ghats. Besides,

agriculture, fisheries, poultry and horticulture would be developed during the programme. A town planning cell was preparing a long-term plan for the region.

The project, Mr. Antulay said, would also try to improve the marketing of fruits and vegetables and added that transport of perishable goods would receive priority.

A booklet issued by the state government on the development programme states that the National Development Council had accepted in principle the "adoption of an area approach for accelerated development of important regions in the country with a view to bringing them on a par with the adjoining developed areas. One such region identified by the planning commission is the Western Ghats region."

Referring to some of the programmes, implemented between 1974 and 1979, the booklet says that the main emphasis was on minor irrigation, agriculture and dairy development. Ice factories were installed at Mahad in Kuleba district and in Mahabaleshwar, it adds.

CSO: 4220

SHEIKH EXPLAINS CHOICE OF SON AS SUCCESSOR

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Mar 81 p 9

[Text]

JAMMU, March 8

Sheikh Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, today announced his final decision that he would not contest any election either for the State Assembly or Parliament nor for any post in the ruling National Conference in future.

Announcing this while talking to a group of journalists here this morning the Sheikh said that his eldest son, Dr Farooq Abdullah, had already been named as his successor and he hoped that not only the National Conference workers and leaders but also the people would accept this decision.

He however, made it clear that he did not want to thrust his nominee either on his party or the people. They were free to accept or reject him.

Sheikh Abdullah, who is also the president of the National Conference said he was going to step down from the party post in the first week of June when the annual session of the party would be held at Srinagar, among other things, for electing a president.

The Sheikh denied the charge that in nominating Dr Farooq he was imposing dynastic rule. He had chosen Dr Farooq after consulting partymen and others. Also his decision was in accordance with his announcement that he would hand over the responsibilities to the younger generation, the Sheikh said.

The Sheikh said he might also step down as Chief Minister before his present tenure was completed in July 1983. But he ruled out mid-term poll in the State.

Referring to Centre-State relations, the Sheikh said there was no confrontation on any issue.

The Sheikh denied the allegation that he was trying to undermine the accession of Jammu and Kashmir with India.

The Chief Minister also expressed his party's resolve to revise the Central laws enforced in the State after 1953 when he was removed from the post of State Premier.

The Chief Minister said "Laws which encroach on our autonomy shall be scrapped, and those beneficial to us shall be retained."

A Cabinet sub-committee had already completed review of most of these post-1953 laws, he said.

PTI reports:

The Chief Minister said his Government had forwarded to the Centre the Ladakhis' demand that they should either be given the Scheduled Tribe status or their region should be declared union territory.

He had been told that the agitators in Ladakh had now receded from the demand for autonomy. "It was for the Centre to decide to give them their rights," he added.

The Chief Minister sounded a note of caution and said before the Centre decided on the demands of the Ladakhis, it should ensure that its decision "does not lead to the disintegration of the State." Like Ladakh there were other backward pockets in the State, and concession to one region might lead to chain reaction," he said.

CSO: 4220

APPOINTMENT OF ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER CHALLENGED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Feb 81 p 19

[Text] Gauhati, February 19 (PTI)--A division bench of the Gauhati high court consisting of Mr Justice Ibotombi Singh and Mr Justice B. L. Hansarai, yesterday admitted a writ appeal challenging the appointment of Mrs Anwara Taimur as Chief minister of Assam.

The appeal was against the judgment of a single bench judge dismissing a writ petition, filed by Mr J. N. Hazarika, a former chief minister, praying for a writ of quo warrant or any other appropriate writ, questioning the validity of the appointment of Mrs Taimur and her ministry.

Mr Justice K. Lahiri of the high court dismissing the writ petition had refused to issue rule NISI in the matter.

The main contention of the appellant was, that with the revocation of President's rule on December 6, the suspension of operation of articles 163 and 164 of the constitution could also be deemed to have been revoked and the office of the chief minister and cabinet should again be deemed to have been activated.

The appellant, was the chief minister when President's rule in Assam was imposed on December 12, 1979, after keeping the state assembly in suspended animation.

Therefore, the appointment of Mrs Anwara Taimur as chief minister by the governor was illegal and unconstitutional as there could not be two chief ministers holding office simultaneously, the appellant contended.

CSO: 4220

ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER VISITS BORDER OUTPOSTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Mar 81 p 1

[Excerpts] Karimganj, March 9.--Mrs Anwara Taimur, Chief Minister of Assam, has reiterated that no foreigner will be allowed to stay in the State and the Government will ensure that no Indian national is harassed in the name of foreigners, reports PTI.

Mrs Taimur visited the border outposts in the Karimganj sector of the India-Bangladesh border yesterday.

She expressed satisfaction at the "very low" rate of illegal entries from across the border because of intensified border patrolling and vigilance.

Mrs Taimur was accompanied by Mr Pradeep Das, Inspector-General of Police and other senior police and Border Security Force officials.

Later, addressing a meeting here, she stressed the need for communal harmony, national integration, particularly in the border areas of the State. She praised the police of Cachar for having maintained peace in this border area.

Commending the work of jawans, she donated 34 transistor sets to them at the 34 border posts in the Karimgunj sector.

The Chief Minister visited two BSF checkposts at Jagannathi and Chandsrekuna on the Karimganj-Sylhet border and discussed with the BSF officials matters relating to the checking of infiltration.

Democratic functioning had been restored to Assam within three months of her assuming office, Mrs Taimur said.

She appealed to the people of Assam to create an atmosphere of trust and goodwill for making the State prosperous.

Addressing meetings at Silchar and Karimganj yesterday she said that loss and damage caused by the Brahmaputra Valley agitation on the foreigners issue had not only harmed the economy and normal life of the State but vitiated the minds of people.

Mrs Taimur said that within 90 days of her Ministry assuming power offices had begun working, schools and colleges reopened and peace was restored.

UNI adds: More than 165,000 candidates are appearing in the high school leaving certificate examination of the Assam Board of Secondary Education which began all over the State today after a lapse of two years.

The examination could not be conducted last year in the wake of the agitation on the foreign nationals issue.

According to a spokesman of the board, the examination being conducted in 204 centres, began peacefully as scheduled.

CSO: 4220

WRITER REPORTS ON CASTE FACTOR IN TAMIL NADU

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9, 10 Mar 81

[Article by V. G. Prasad Rao]

[9 Mar 81, p 6]

[Text] Madras: A Coimbatore girl belonging to a "forward" community gets 96 per cent of the marks but is placed hundredth on the waiting list for entry into an engineering college. Luckier than most, she gets a seat from the management quota of a private engineering college. Now in the third year of a course in electronics, she stands second in the state in the order of merit.

A gang of ingenious burglars baffles the police for months in Tirunelveli. At last the police trace the culprits--three of the teenagers turn out to be members of a "forward" community who took to crime for a livelihood because, even with 70 per cent marks, they could get neither seats in colleges nor jobs.

These are just two examples of the way the whole system of reservation for backward communities affects the lives of people belonging to higher castes in Tamil Nadu. The state was among the pioneers in the field but of late it has gone even further in that direction.

In fact, on the eve of its dismissal in February, 1980, the All-India Anna DMK government hastily passed two orders. One raised the reservation for backward classes from 31 to 50 per cent while the other did away with the economic criterion for eligibility--an annual income limit of Rs. 9,000.

The total reservation, including 18 per cent for the scheduled castes and tribes, thus now stands at 68 per cent in all educational institutions, professional or otherwise, and for purposes of recruitment to the public services as well as promotions. Nor are the remaining 32 per cent of the seats available for the forward communities to be filled by open competition. Far from it. Some seats are reserved for Sri Lanka repatriates, Burma repatriates, handicapped persons, persons distinguished in sports and ex-defence personnel. In the final count, forward communities can complete for less than 15 per cent of the seats. [as published] What is more, the backward castes and scheduled castes and tribes are not debarred from competing for these "open" seats.

Income Ignored

True, the Backward Classes Commission headed by Mr. A. N. Sattanathan recorded its opposition in 1969 to reservation on the basis of caste. It argued that "caste" should not be equated with "class" and suggested an income limit of Rs. 9,000 for eligibility. Under its proposals, the reservation for the backward classes was to be raised from 25 per cent to 33 per cent while the total reservation, including the then 16 per cent for scheduled castes and tribes, would not exceed the 50 per cent limit laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of R. Balaji versus the state of Mysore. The court had struck down the Mysore government's order reserving 68 per cent of the seats for the backward classes, holding that it amounted to a fraud on the Constitution.

But the DMK government, then in power, ignored the income limit suggested by the Sattanathan commission. It however, increased the quota of the scheduled castes and tribes from 16 per cent to 18 per cent and that of the backward classes from 25 to 31 per cent (instead of 33 as proposed by the commission).

In the middle of 1979, the AIADMK government imposed the income limit of Rs. 9,000, with the chief minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, saying that "social justice and fairness demand it". He ignored the murmur of dissent in his own party. But in the wake of his party's defeat in the January elections to the Lok Sabha, he changed course. His government then passed orders raising the reservation to 68 per cent. Soon afterwards, it was dismissed by the Centre. But the AIADMK felt vindicated when it won the elections to the state assembly a few months later.

Not surprisingly, the whole system of reservation is being exploited by the undeserving while others are being driven to the wall. The Backward Classes Commission had itself recognised that the vast majority of the backward castes were being cheated of the concessions meant for them. It found that nine backward castes out of the 370 castes and sub-castes managed to create a "virtual monopoly" for themselves. They are: Vaduvan, Thuluva Vellala, Agamudaiyan, Gavara, Virakkodi Vellalar, Sourashtra, Sadhu Chetty, Kaikolan and Devanga.

Classification Varies

Constituting only 11.3 per cent of the total backward class population these nine castes accounted for 37.3 per cent of the non-gazetted and 48.2 per cent of the gazetted posts in the late sixties, according to a study. As regards educational scholarships, the group had secured 34.3 per cent of the total available. And, it had cornered 44.3 per cent of seats in engineering colleges and 47.3 per cent in medical colleges. This was when reservation for backward classes was pegged at 25 per cent. The figure was, however, raised to 31 per cent in 1970 and to 50 per cent subsequently.

In contrast, seven castes--Valiyan, Yogeswaran, Muthuvaraya, Karuba, Boya, Ambalakaran and Parvatharajakulam--which account for 12.1 per cent of the backward classes held just 1.9 per cent of the non-gazetted and 0.9 per cent of the gazetted posts. They secured only 1.8 per cent of the engineering seats and 0.4 per cent of the medical seats.

That is not all. The classification of backward classes varies from district to district. Christians in Kanyakumari district are "backward" but just across the

boundary in Tirunelveli district they are deemed as "forward". A Kongu Chettiar is "backward" only in Coimbatore district but not elsewhere. Similarly, the Orudya Gounder is "backward" in Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli and Salem districts but nowhere else. Thus, in the same family, some members may be "forward" and others "backward", depending on where they are born, settled or married.

Children of millionaires, industrialists, doctors, engineers, senior officials and big businessmen, calling themselves backward, corner most of the concessions. Children of their servants and accountants getting subsistence wages, on the other hand, are denied the concessions on the ground that they belong to the "forward" castes.

The abuses of the caste-based reservation have become so blatant that the backward Classes Commission noted an unusual increase in the population in certain castes, not warranted by the birth rate! It is common knowledge that false certificates are routinely produced--and accepted--for claiming the benefits of reservation.

[10 Mar 81, p 6]

[Text] Madras: A broad-based, peaceful agitation by the "forward" castes against the "bane of caste-based reservation" is being organised under the leadership of the Tamil Nadu Oppressed People's Movement. Founded two years ago in Tirunelveli, one of the finest centres of education anywhere in the country, OPM has already set up some 50 branches all over the state and it claims membership of over 100,000.

According to its founder-president, Mr. L. S. Marthandam, a retired collector of customs, it hopes to establish branches in other states as well. The Nair community in Kerala, for instance, feels aggrieved and a branch is expected to start operating in Trivandrum soon.

Protest against the distortion of a policy to help the depressed masses is only natural, says Mr. Marthandam. For, it has led to a lowering of standards all round to the detriment of public interest and growing migration of the "best brains" to other states and other countries, he argues.

According to CPM, article 15 (4) of the Constitution refers to "socially 'and' (not 'or') educationally backward classes". It has not defined these terms. The Supreme Court has, however, decided that "backward classes" are not the same as "backward castes".

The system of reservations in Tamil Nadu, however, has a long and chequered history. For two decades until independence, government appointments in erstwhile Madras presidency used to be made on the basis of a communal roster: out of every 12 vacancies, non-Brahmin Hindus had a quota of five, Brahmins two, Muslims two, Anglo-Indians and Christians two and scheduled castes one.

Roster Changed

The roster was changed twice before the Madras government decided in April, 1954 that reservations will be 16 per cent for scheduled castes and tribes, 25 per cent for backward classes and 59 per cent for the other castes. This rule was

applicable to direct recruitment and also to promotions to specified gazetted posts in the Madras civil service (executive branch), the Madras highways engineering service, the Madras survey and land records services and so on. All promotions to the non-gazetted posts of upper division clerks and tahsildars of the revenue department were similarly covered.

Kaka Kalelkar, chairman of the Backward Classes Commission appointed by the Union government in 1953, however, said in a letter forwarding the report: "It was only when the report was being finalised that I started thinking anew and found that backwardness could be tackled on a basis, or a number of bases, other than that of 'caste'.... Once we eschew the principle of caste, it will be possible to help the extremely poor and deserving from all communities."

In the report itself, Mr. Kalelkar proposed that in respect of reservation in the services one clear principle must be accepted and observed: reservation, if any, must not exceed 49 per cent, whatever the total population of all the favoured communities.

The University Education Commission appointed by the Central government later recommended that the percentage of reservation should not exceed one-third of the total number of seats. The Centre suggested to the states that reservation in colleges for backward classes, scheduled castes and tribes may be up to 25 per cent, with marginal adjustments not exceeding ten per cent in exceptional cases.

Both Mr. Nehru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President, emphasised that state aid was meant for all educationally and socially backward classes (not castes).

All these considerations have been brushed aside, however, by the DMK and the AIADMK governments, which have gone on enlarging the scope of reservations for political advantage, according to OPM. "The government has given a casteist twist to what is essentially an economic problem," says Mr. Marthandam.

Deep Roots

OPM's appeal is, however, limited to forward castes which account for 9.7 million voters out of a total of 29.3 million in Tamil Nadu. But Mr. Marthandam is not discouraged. "The AIADMK came to power in the 1980 elections", he point out, "with only 7.3 million votes (38.9 per cent of the votes cast). [as published] Including its allies, the AIADMK front secured just 49.23 per cent of the total votes whereas the opposition parties put together secured 50.77 votes."

But he seems aware of the odds against him. Casteism in Tamil Nadu has deep roots. The first "communal government order" was the fruit of the strivings of the Justice party (or the South Indian Liberal Federation, a conglomerate of rich non-Brahmin groups united against the Brahmin community, then dominant in the administrative services). This was followed by the fanatically anti-Brahmin Dravid Kazhagam, which split in 1949. The major splinter, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, led by the late Mr. C. N. Annadurai, captured political power in 1967. Following another split, the AIADMK led by Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, secured office. Both the kazhagams, however, draw their electoral strength from caste-based vote banks.

OPM claims to represent the interests of 15 million people out of the total population of 45 million. For the present, it wants "more opportunities to educate ourselves". Its "non-political" yellow flag has a five-pointed red star in the centre. Its leaders and members are drawn from all the "forward" communities, including Christians and Brahmins.

However, it is pledged to oppose the tendency of the three kazhagams to pour scorn and ridicule on Hindu gods or whip up hatred against the Brahmins. It has demanded a ban on all public meetings and processions which are intended to vilify a particular community.

To its credit, the MGR government, however, has not shown any bias against Brahmins. Mr. Ramachandran has even included a Brahmin, Dr. H. V. Handi, in his cabinet.

CSO: 4220

GANDHI SCORES WEST BENGAL EDUCATION POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, February 20 (PTI). The left front government in West Bengal was today charged by the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, with interfering in institutions of higher learning.

"There should be no political interference in the academic field," the Prime Minister said. She was addressing representatives of the West Bengal Teachers' Association and All-India Federation of Educational Associations here.

It was not proper, Mrs Gandhi said, for political parties to put their men in academic institutions as it destroyed the fabric of the educational system.

Stand of States

The teachers' associations presented a memorandum to Mrs Gandhi, urging her to ensure that education was retained in the concurrent list. They wanted Central legislation covering both academic and administrative aspects of education so that the objective of keeping it in the concurrent list was achieved.

The Prime Minister said this was not an easy task as the states and opposition parties were generally opposed to making education a concurrent subject.

She underlined the need for keeping out political interference in education and said: "In West Bengal, for example, there is great deal of interference in the institutions of higher learning."

Several years ago, the Prime Minister said, there was an attempt in Uttar Pradesh to 'capture' universities and she had opposed it.

There had never been any doubt about the importance of education in the development of the country and building up character but opinions differed on what was the best type of education to be provided.

CSO: 4220

GANDHI TO TEACHERS: NO CHANGE IN LANGUAGE POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Mar 81 p 11

[Text] New Delhi, March 11 (UNI): The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today assured a large gathering of teachers from Tamil Nadu that there was no change in the language policy and the government "does not believe in regimentation of any kind."

Mrs. Gandhi said the government did not believe in coercing anybody to learn any particular language but "we would like people to learn other languages as well."

She recalled that during the anti-Hindi agitation in Madras, she was the minister of information and broadcasting at the Centre. The state government had then advised her not to visit Madras, but she had insisted on going there and had met the agitating people.

People must have preliminary education in their own languages but learn other languages also, Mrs. Gandhi said. This would help "knit the nation together." If one knew more than one language, one would have better chance in the country, and abroad too.

Mrs. Gandhi told the 2,500 teachers that she had a very special regard for teachers, probably because she was lucky to have had good teachers who later became her friends.

The Prime Minister called upon the teachers of the country to act as a "bridge" between good old traditions and the modern world's new knowledge or science and technology.

Mrs. Gandhi said teachers had a "most crucial role" to play everywhere, especially in the developing countries.

They had to mould and direct the personality of their pupils. They also had to help each pupil's personality develop on its own and enable him to be of larger benefit to society.

Mrs. Gandhi said she was the first to take up the cause of teachers without being promoted, though all their problems could not be solved. Whenever some problems were solved, new ones cropped up, she added.

CSO: 4220

KARNATAKA ASSURES SAFETY OF LANGUAGE MINORITIES

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Bangalore, March 9.

The Karnataka Finance Minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily, on Monday assured an agitated Opposition in the State Assembly that the Government would investigate reports of distribution of pamphlets containing threats to Tamilians and Keralites. He assured all protection to the linguistic minorities.

Mr. Moily's assurance followed indignation and repeated concern expressed by Opposition members over pamphlets containing a letter, purported to have been written by the president of the Karnataka branch of the National Students Union of India to the Prime Minister, in the context of the strike by the employees of Bangalore-based public sector units.

One of the demands in the letter was for sending "Tamilians and Keralites out of the State within one week as the heritage of our beloved Karnataka is at stake." Failing this, it threatened the NSUI would cut off water and electricity supply to them and organise a social boycott of these "anti-social elements and lock them up in their respective colonies at the cost of our lives."

The "soft pedalling attitude of the Chief Minister to the Joint Action Front of the units should also be changed", it said.

The Opposition, which sought to move an adjournment motion,--Mr. B. V. Kakkilaya (CPI), had tabled the adjournment motion--alleged that the pamphlets had been distributed with police protection.

The deputy leader of the Opposition, Mr. J. H. Patel, said the president of the Karnataka NSUI, Mr. Aradhva,--under whose name the pamphlets had appeared--had been to the office of a local English daily and pressed for a report in the paper on the contents of the pamphlets. When it was refused, he had threatened them.

The pamphlets did not contain the name of the press where they were printed, he said.

The Speaker, Mr. K. H. Ranganath, who disallowed the adjournment motion, said that no one was happy about the contents of the pamphlets.

'Serious and Sensitive'

The Finance Minister said that the issue was 'very serious and sensitive.' The Chief Minister was doing everything to resolve the deadlock created by the 74-day strike in the public sector units.

He was meeting the leaders of the Opposition later that day, and the Government had no intention of breaking the agitation. When they were making sincere efforts to resolve the crisis, it was wrong to bring out pamphlets. [as published] The Government would take action against this, he said.

Mr. Moily said the interest of the linguistic minorities would be safeguarded and there was no need for apprehension. Members should not give prominence to the pamphlets, which he said, would be unhealthy.

Mr. Moily said the policy enquiry was on. The publication of the pamphlets had not come to the notice of the Government even on Saturday.

The Speaker: "It had not come to the notice of the House also."

The Finance Minister said there was also an allegation that some people had been to a local newspaper office and administered a threat to them. [as published] The Government would not tolerate violence or threat to the minorities and would also not do anything that would encourage such an attitude. "We will put down any such attempt", he warned.

Mr. Kakkilaya (CPI), who earlier read excerpts from the pamphlets, said the situation was serious. If there was no assurance from the Government, they would have to conclude that it was 'conniving' with those behind the pamphlets.

Mr. Michael Fernandes (Janata), said huge posters had also appeared in Bangalore, apart from handbills issued by persons claiming to belong to the NSUI and the INTUC. He asked how the police intelligence failed when posters and handbills appeared without naming the press. It was an attempt to break the strike, he alleged.

Mr. Fernandes wondered how could those responsible for the handbills say that the strike was against Kannadigas by Tamilians and Keralites. The House should decide whether Fascist methods would be allowed. "Do they want bloodshed in streets", he asked.

Mr. K. H. Srinivasa (Cong.-U), said that when serious efforts were being made to find a solution to the public sector firms strike the dangerous factors of "driving away Tamilians and Keralites had been injected". If they said that Tamilians and Keralites would be sent back, what would happen to Kannadigas in other places. If political parties could not keep in check their party wings how could the State be run, he asked.

Mr. C. M. Arumugham (RPI), said the pamphlets, purported to be issued by a wing of the party in power did not bring credit to the party.

CSO: 4220

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE BENGAL EDUCATION POLICY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Mar 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Following the suggestion of Mr Nihar Ranjan Ray at a meeting organized at the residence of Mr Asoke Sen M.P., in Calcutta on Sunday, a fact-finding committee was formed to investigate the "misrule" of the Left Front Government in the field of education.

The committee, convened by Mr D. P. Chattopadhyaya, a former Union Minister, will investigate the bio data of the members of the University Councils, of college governing bodies, the College Service Commission and of teachers of the primary and secondary schools appointed by the Left Front.

Mr Ray suggested to go through the resolutions taken at the council meetings of the State universities under the nominated members to find out how much of the resolutions were "anti-people".

He said a file should be made to record all the findings of the "background" of the appointments given at different levels of the academic field.

Mr Ray complained that 48,000 voter forms printed for the Calcutta University elections were sold out and anyone asking for forms were told that those forms were no more in print. He doubted the possible "fairness" of the coming elections at the university.

Mr Ray wondered how the Chief Minister could inaugurate an English medium school at Salt Lake recently and then speak of removing English at the primary level. He suggested to the fact finding committee to find out which States really did not have English at the primary schools. As far as he knew, he said, except for the Hindi predominated States--extending from "River Saraswati to the Taj Mahal"--English was taught elsewhere at the primary level. He said Gujarat had reintroduced English recently.

He said the Left Front could not dare interfere in the teaching of English in the numerous English medium schools in the State. "They are preserved by the law," he added. He said it was the Left Front who was intensifying the division between the upper class who usually sent their children to the English medium schools and those who could not afford to send their wards to schools where they could learn English.

Some of the others, who were present at the meeting, said that it was wrong to say that English was not studied in Russia or in China. In the Soviet Union, English was a "link language" while in China, English was the most preferred foreign language taught. Mr Pratul Gupta, Mr Monoj Bose, Mr Sisir Bose, Dr Nihar Munshi and Mr Hemanta Mukherjee attended the meeting.

A deputation of members of the Education Reforms Committee, West Bengal, met Mr T. N. Singh, Governor and Chancellor of the State Universities, on Saturday and handed over a report on the "continued academic disorder in the State," according to a statement by the committee.

The deputationists informed the Governor of the "high-handed and the unjust manner of constitution of the University and the College Service Commission, and the malpractice in the appointment of teachers and non-teaching staff in schools, colleges and universities to serve party interests."

The deputation was led by Mr S. N. Sen, former Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, Mr Jagadish Dasgupta and Mr S. N. Chakravarty. A memorandum and a charter of demands were submitted to the Governor.

CSO: 4220

WEST BENGAL CPI(M) STATE COMMITTEE MEETS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Feb 81 p 9

[Text] Calcutta, February 20. The CPM state committee today began its four-day deliberations on certain immediate political and organisational issues in the presence of the party general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad.

Mr Namboodiripad is expected to brief the committee members on the discussions recently held in the party's central committee on the international and domestic political situations.

The other issues before the state committee relate to the pending elections to the state legislature and the elections to the municipal bodies in the state in May and to the alliances or adjustments that should be considered necessary for fighting those elections.

Some socialist leaders like Mr Biman Mitra have been having contacts with the CPM leaders of late for coming closer to the front, especially through the elections. Similarly, to what extent the CPI could or should be accommodated will be another important subject for discussion.

Stand Assailed

The CPM leadership recently recorded its displeasure at some of the CPI postures in West Bengal. The state secretary, Mr Promode Dasgupta, even went to the extent of suggesting that the question of accommodating the CPI in terms of the coming elections would depend on the party's attitude displayed during the state assembly's budget session.

Participating in the general discussion on the governor's address in the assembly today, the CPI state council secretary, Mr Biswanath Mukherjee, among other things, supported the left front government's language policy for the primary section as well as its decision to do away with formal examinations up to class IV.

But he added, all the same, that the government should seriously try and prevent the development of distinct "classes of people" having the benefit of Bengali and English medium schools.

On the other hand, in his introductory remarks, while emphasising the "deepening economic and political crisis" in the country as a whole and the inevitability of Mrs Gandhi's government making "more concessions to big business and industry," Mr Mukherjee might have sought to make it clear that in terms of this assessment his party had no difference with the CPM.

It is difficult to anticipate the trend of discussion in the state committee on the CPI issue. A meeting between Mr Mukherjee and the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, in this connection was expected to take place today. But it did not. Instead, Mr Mukherjee spoke in the assembly, outlining his party's point of view on some of the burning issues.

Considering the development of other political forces in the state in recent weeks, the CPM might itself feel the necessity of keeping the CPI on its side.

CSO: 4220

RSS REPORTED INVOLVED IN GUJARAT AGITATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Ahmedabad, March 8.

The Gujarat home minister, Mr. Prabodh Raval, today announced that the Ahmedabad police had seized incriminating documents from some leaders of the junior doctors which established the RSS connection in the anti-reservation agitation.

Mr. Raval said the city crime branch conducted eight raids in different places in the city and seized a large number of documents, including correspondence between three leaders of the junior doctors and some Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, who were known to be hard core RSS members. The seizure also included some pamphlets intended to instigate violence in the state.

Two junior doctors, Ramesh Gandhi and Bharat Amin, were arrested for possessing the incriminating documents. One of them was stated to be a known RSS activist.

The seized documents also indicated that the RSS, with the help of the leaders of the junior doctors, was attempting to turn the current stir into an Assam-type agitation and create lawlessness in the state for political goals.

He refused to disclose the names of the RSS leaders or the nature of the correspondence. He, however, said some of the letters seized gave guidance to the leaders how to conduct the agitation and to create violence to pressurise the government.

Mr. Raval clarified that the RSS was operating through three junior doctors. The assistance of some RSS leaders who had visited Assam and studied the agitation pattern in that state was also sought by the junior doctors, he added.

He said right from the beginning, the government had had doubts that the RSS was involved in the current agitation. Mr. Raval said the seized documents also proved that the RSS leaders tried to instigate violence and spread caste war even at religious functions like "Ram Darbar", a religious discourse of Morari Bapu held in the city recently. The documents indicated that they had plans to disrupt the proceedings but owing to prompt action by the organisers and non-cooperation of the people the RSS failed in its designs, he added.

The home minister said the same RSS elements who had tried to instigate violence in the state in August last year by launching an agitation were connected with the current agitation also.

During the raids the police had also seized a large number of pamphlets from the leaders of the junior doctors. The pamphlets, purported to have been issued by the Dalit Panthers, had been distributed in the middle-class colonies in the city to instigate violence against the scheduled caste people, he said. [as published]

Mr. Raval said there was also evidence that one leader of the junior doctors had planned to distribute a large number of these pamphlets in Gandhinagar.

CSO: 4220

LALDENGA CONFIDENT OF MIZO PROBLEM SOLUTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 8 (PTI).

Mr. Laldenga, leader of the Mizo National Front (MNF), left here tonight for Calcutta en route to the front's underground headquarters, confident that an overall settlement of the Mizo problem would be reached with the Centre within three months.

Mr. Laldenga, who was accompanied by his wife, told PTI that he expected the MNF national executive to formulate its political demands in about two weeks after he reached the front headquarters some time next week.

The MNF would then depute a delegation for talks with the Union government to be held in New Delhi he said.

Mr. Laldenga will fly tomorrow morning to Silchar from where he will be taken to Aizawl.

The MNF chief is visiting Aizawl after a gap of 15 years and the MNF headquarters after nine years. He came to Delhi with his family from abroad in 1976 to seek a political solution to the Mizo problem.

Mr. Laldenga said he was going to the party headquarters with the blessings of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. "She is the only leader who understands the problems of the minorities in north-east India. She has the courage to face facts and has a desire to solve the problems," the MNF leader stated.

Mr. Laldenga said he was confident that all obstacles would be overcome and that the Mizo problem solved within the framework of the Indian constitution.

He pointed out that he had received a letter from the front headquarters conveying gratitude to the Union government and expressing full confidence in the leadership of Mrs. Gandhi for solving the Mizo problem.

Aizawl: Several hundred wall posters have appeared all over the town here hailing the peace talks and the initiative taken by Mr. Laldenga to find a solution to the Mizo problems.

The posters read, "Laldenga is our saviour," "Laldenga can bring peace" and "Laldenga is the father of Mizoram".

CSO: 4220

CPI(M) CALLS MEETINGS TO COMBAT REGIONALISM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 8.

The CPM central leadership has decided to launch a determined drive to combat the tendencies of regionalism growing in some states, particularly in those states where it is in power.

Party plenums have been called in these states next month for a thorough discussion of the ideological issues in which the central leaders will endeavour to bring round the state units to accept the central party formulations.

The task is by no means an easy one. The central leadership has so far failed, despite repeated efforts, to bring especially its West Bengal unit to fulfil the task assigned to it of spreading the CPM movement in the other northern states.

The conflict arises from the different objectives the central party and the state unit are pursuing. The central leadership wants to utilise the states in which the party is strong as a springboard for advancing the communist movement in states where it is weak. The state unit's attitude is determined by its desire to strengthen its base, or, in other words, remain in power.

In pursuance of this objective, the state unit has been expanding its membership, relaxing the rigorous qualifications that are normally demanded for membership of a communist party. The central leadership has identified this as the basic cause for the growth of regional tendencies--lack of political education.

The party leadership has dubbed this tendency as "federalism"--a dreaded term in communist vocabulary. The party stands for "democratic centralism" which means that there should be a thorough inner-party discussion before a line is adopted, but once it is adopted all the constituents should accept it without question.

The state unit has been stoutly resisting the imposition of this concept by the central party because, according to it, the central formulations do not take into account the political realities of West Bengal.

The central leadership has apparently decided to fight out this "federal" tendency at any cost. The CPI, a political ally of the CPM at the national level,

may have helped it in this respect by launching agitations against the CPM-led state government.

The growing unity in the opposition ranks in West Bengal appears to have brought home to a section of the state unit that its continuance in power for long has become doubtful, making it realise the usefulness of broadening the base of the "left democratic" movement through political alliances.

CSO: 4220

DP'S AGITATE AGAINST JAMMU, KASHMIR GOVERNMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Jammu, March 8 (PTI).

About 1,000 displaced persons from the Indian side today tried to cross into Pakistani territory at Suchetgarh, 28 km. from here, complaining that they were being treated as "Pakistanis" on the official records of Jammu and Kashmir.

The agitating refugees, who belonged to Pakistan, are settled on the Jammu border since 1947 as ordinary residents without rights of citizenship.

The refugees, who total about 30,000, have been agitating for some time demanding civic rights denied to them by the state government.

Shouting anti-state government slogans and carrying white placards and flags, the refugees crossed into Pakistani territory.

Nearly 26 Pakistani rangers guarding the borders rushed to the spot and prevented the refugees from marching ahead. The refugees then organised a dharna on the border line and also handed over to a ranger a letter addressed to the Pakistani President, Gen. Zia-ul-Huq, requesting him to allow them into the country.

A party of newsmen from Jammu present on the scene saw the Pakistani territory being cleared of cattle which were grazing in their area.

The refugees included a large number of women, several of the with babies in their arms. [as published]

CSO: 4220

GANDHI DENIES NEWSPRINT TAX TO CONTROL PRESS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Wednesday denied allegations that the proposed levy of 15 per cent on imported newsprint was an indirect method of controlling the press, report agencies.

The 15 per cent levy on newsprint was not intended to control the press, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said on Wednesday.

During a question-answer session with a group of journalism students from Pune University, Mrs Gandhi said she did not believe in censorship at all.

Asked whether the press should adopt a pro-Government approach the Prime Minister replied it should not be pro-Government but pro-country. The press should display a sense of responsibility.

She said that during the language riots in Assam, newspapers were divided. While the Assamese newspapers were projecting one view, the Bengali dailies gave the opposite view. Such differences in the approach of newspapers increased tension. The press should therefore show a sense of responsibility on such issues.

The approach of western newspapers was also different when reporting on events in other parts of the world. The editor of a western newspaper had informed her that while their correspondents were free to write anything regarding the western world, they had to check with their editors on matters relating to the east.

Prime Minister again called for a consensus on important national issues.

While, there might be difference of views among people and groups, our objective is that at least on matters of national importance where it is possible to come to agreement, we should get together and work," she said.

CSO: 4220

KONKANI WRITERS HOLD CONFERENCE IN GOA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Feb 81 p 5

[Text] Panaji, February 18: The three-day All-India conference of Konkani writers has criticised the Rane government for its indifference to the development of Konkani language.

The conference held in Canacona, a small coastal town in south Goa, was attended by over 400 writers from Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala.

Its president, Mr Shantaram Hede, pointed out that the Rane government had failed to keep its promise to the people to do its best to develop Konkani. Now, it thought that it had done its duty by merely giving Rs 1 lakh per year to the Konkani Bhasha Mandal.

This amount, he said, was earmarked for preparing Konkani textbooks and hence should not be utilised for the introduction of English as the medium of instruction at the primary school level which the Rane government did. By this single act, Mr Hede said the government did great disservice to Konkani language.

"Had Madame Montessori been alive, she would have sued all these schools using her name and keeping an alien language like English as the medium of instruction because she firmly believed that the medium of instruction of the child should be its mother tongue."

Konkani Dictionary

The conference appointed two committees for compiling a standard Konkani dictionary and preparing a script for Konkani language and an action committee to ensure that the people in Goa registered Konkani as their mother tongue during the current census.

Mr Hede regretted that the Konkani dictionary he had prepared was first approved by writers like Mr Monohar Sardesai but later rejected. Any such publication, he noted, would cost Rs 5 lakhs.

According to Mr Sumant Kelekar, the introduction of English at the primary school level proved to be a setback to the development of Konkani. Besides Mr Ravindra Kelekar, Sahitya Kala Academy award winner for his book "Himalayant" in Konkani, others who participated in the discussions included Mr Janardhan Phaldeasai, Mr Chandrakant Keni, Mr Felix Cardose, Mr Yeshwant Palekar, Father Mendes, Father Lactancio Almedia, Mr Nagesh Karmali, Dr Ravi Pandit, Mr Gregory Rodrigues and Mr Datta Naik.

SEMINAR DISCUSSES PROBLEMS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Feb 81 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, February 18. Startling accounts of the conditions in which migrant labour is constrained to work, particularly on agricultural land, were related by participants at a seminar on the subject that concluded here today.

Their plight has not been mitigated by the passage of the inter-state migration law. For many of the states are yet to frame the rules for the implementation of the law enacted four months ago. The minister of state for labour, Mrs Ram Dhulari Sinha, addressing the seminar, urged the states to take necessary action without delay.

Administrators, academics, sociologists and trade union leaders participated in the seminar.

One participant, Mr K. B. Saxena, detailed how Adivasis worked in near-slavery conditions through a multi-tier mechanism. He suggested changes in the law enabling employers and ensuring protection to all migrant labour.

The act now applies only to contractors employing five or more migrant workers.

Mr Manjit Singh and Mr K. G. Iyer, taking up case studies, pointed to massive immigration into Punjab by workers from distant states like Bihar. According to the studies, migration had resulted in stagnation, if not depression, of wages in the state. These workers suffered at the hands of rich farmers, police and railwaymen.

Papers were presented on Telengana migrant labour in Bombay and Dadar labour from Orissa.

The problems of migrant labour were attributed to socioeconomic and infrastructural deficiency, apathy of the government and legal lacunae.

While balanced development of regions and large-scale industrialisation provided the long-term answer to many of the problems of migrant industrial labour, strict enforcement of the inter-state migrant labour act with the requisite changes was called for, the participants said.

One of them wanted investigation of the extent to which labour was being pushed out of their original homes. According to him, while the movement of migrants was mostly towards metropolitan cities, protection by law should be extended to those who were constrained to migrate from one part of the state to another. The cases of migrants from east UP to west UP, from south Bihar to north Bihar, from the desert areas to the canal areas in Rajasthan and inter-district migrants were cited as examples.

CSO: 4220

BENGAL EXONERATED ON FOOD-FOR-WORK PROGRAM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Mar 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] A study by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission has discounted most of the allegations levelled by the Centre against the West Bengal Government on implementation of the food-for-work programme.

On the other hand, the PEO in its final report has commended some of the systems introduced by the State Government in execution of the scheme, including the registration of the labourers. West Bengal is one of the States out of a total of ten States where the study was conducted.

Two districts were selected from each State. Burdwan and Nadia were the districts from West Bengal. Though the study pertains to August-October, 1979, by and large, it does not find any particular lapse in the implementation of the scheme in these two districts.

The bone of contention in the controversy raging between Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh and the West Bengal Government, has been the misuse of the food supplied by the Centre for the programme. The other is the delay in sending the utilisation certificates.

In fact, on the first allegation the study says that 79 per cent of the selected beneficiaries were satisfied with the system of distribution. Those found dissatisfied come from Maharashtra, UP, and Orissa. In Nadia, it finds "no problem of malpractice or misutilisation". In the other West Bengal block (Krishanganj) the malpractices pertain to mainly work certificate for unsatisfactory work and supply of "very bad" quality of grains by the fair price shop. [as published]

Malpractices

On the other hand, it was found that there was a malpractice galore in the Cong-I ruled States like Andhra Pradesh. "In Medak (Prime Minister's constituency)" the report says, "it was reported that the contractors kept the records of distribution of foodgrains to the labourers on bits of papers which on the completion of works were thrown away. In Bhojpur (Bihar, then under the Janata rule), the misutilisation of wheat could not be checked even by frequent visits of officials..."

The PEO also says that in eight out of the ten selected States, the village panchayats were the implementing agencies for which the Union Agriculture

Minister singles out West Bengal. However, it found that West Bengal was among other States which had not set up district-level steering committees for work supervision.

On the question of utilisation, West Bengal figures in the list of five States which had reported 100 per cent utilisation of wheat. "The only State where the utilisation was less than 80 per cent was Haryana", the report says. West Bengal, however, figures among the three States where "all" villages had not sent full data on utilisation.

On one point, the PEO singles out West Bengal for the huge shortfall of additional resources, which was Rs. 203 lakhs in that State. It was satisfactory in six other States.

Without naming any State, the study says that foodgrains meant for the poor were misused for buying crockery and beautification of the collectorate.

The study said that 46.5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were utilised by the States till November 1980. A total of 8,686 lakh man days of employment were generated till the end of March 1980.

Of the 264 works taken up, 141 or 53.4 per cent were considered to be durable and 123 of 46.6 per cent non-durable. Taking these together, community assets worth Rs 24 lakhs were created and 3.7 lakh mandays generated in these villages.

CSO: 4220

CPI LEADER RAO SUPPORTS PLANNED FARMERS' MARCH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Mar 81 p 5

[Text]

CPI General Secretary C. Rajendra Swami Rao has extended full support to the peasants and agricultural workers' march to Parliament being organised on 28 March to voice the urgent demands of agricultural workers, kisans and consumers.

In a statement on Saturday, Mr Rao instructed all CPI units, especially those in states adjoining Delhi, to help mobilise people for the march and make it a success.

The march is being organised by kisan organisations of the Lok Dal, CPI, Congress-U, CPI-M, BSF, Loktantrik Lok Dal, RSP, Forward Bloc, PWP as well as the premier organisation of agricultural workers, the Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union. The CPI had made it abundantly clear that it would not associate with the march if the BJP was included in it, and in this stand it had been supported by all democratic forces, notably the Lok Dal, BSF, Congress-U and the CPI-M.

Mr Rao launched a direct attack on the "pro-vested interest" policies of the Congress-I Governments both at the Centre and in the States.

Underscoring the nature of the Central Government's latest

offensive against the working class "virtually nullifying the right of collective bargaining by blatant violation of agreements with workers", Mr Rao said Mrs Indira Gandhi was now seeking to pit the unorganised rural and urban poor against the organised working class "in the same way as she tried to do by pitting consumers against peasants recently".

The crassest example of the Government's retrograde policies was the case of bringing an ordinance to violate the Supreme Court decision in favour of the LIC employees, he felt. At the same time efforts were afoot to suppress the prolonged strike of over one lakh employees of important public sector establishments mainly based in Bangalore over their demand for parity with the BHEL employees.

"The just struggles of the public sector employees and LIC employees must be supported by all sections of the people", he said.

Mr Rao observed that notwithstanding the claims of Mrs Gandhi, prices were going to rise further in the coming period on account of concessions being given to monopolists, big traders and multinationals.

CSO: 4220

BAHUGUNA, CHANDRA SPEAK AT LUCKNOW MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Mar 81 p 5

[Text]

LUCKNOW, March 7 — Democratic Socialist Front leader H N Bahuguna today warned the people against the forces of imperialism that were stocking the fire of war, in different parts of the world with the intention of strengthening their control on the mineral resources of Asian and African nations.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the State peace conference Mr Bahuguna said that the imperialists powers, whose direct rule on their colonies had ended after second world war were trying to re-establish their control on the economy of their former colonies. This was more dangerous than their direct rule. He said that these powerful nations at present controlled 75 per cent mineral wealth of Asian, African and Latin American nations. The economic imperialism was proving more dangerous and more disastrous for the poor developing nations.

World Peace Council chairman Romesh Chandra warned that the world was in danger today. The stockpiling of the atomic arms had become a threat for the very safety of this earth. The real danger was from the USA which had started war preparations at large scale.

President Reagan openly said that present budget for arms was not sufficient. He has demanded 25 per cent more funds for

raising death and destruction. As if all this was not enough the USA was also manufacturing "neutron bombs for stockpiling, which was earlier stopped by President Carter under the pressure of world wide protests.

The USA was strengthening military dictators all over the world, as was covering Diego Garcia into one of the biggest base of war, which had become a threat to India. It was USA and China that were giving trainings to the rebels in north east frontiers. China was providing sophisticated arms to Pakistan. It has already built Karakoram road on our north west frontier.

Now a section of politicians like Mr Atal Behari Bajpai are saying that there was danger for India from Diego Garcia but main danger was from Soviet presence in Afghanistan which may at any time endanger our country. But America-China-Pak axis was allowed to capture Afghanistan, we would be completely encircled by our enemies from all sides.

He said the Soviet Union did not want supremacy and control over developing nations like the USA but equality with all the nations. Hence the main danger comes from the USA and all the patriotic forces of our country should combine to defend our motherland in spite of our political and ideological differences.

CSO: 4220

RAM DEFENDS GUJARAT RESERVATIONS SYSTEM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] Ahmedabad, March 7 (UNI)--Mr Jagjivan Ram said here today that caste-based reservation should continue as long as the status of a person was determined in the country by birth and caste.

Mr Jagjivan Ram arrived here today on a day's visit to make a first-hand study on anti-reservation agitation in the State.

Mr Jagjivan Ram told a press conference that 6 to 20 per cent of the population had been kept backward for years and every section had a right in the governance of the affairs of the country.

He said the issue of reservation of seats for post-medical courses, on which the medical students started their agitation, had now been left much behind and it had turned into something else.

Asked what would happen if the anti-reservation agitation turned into a class war, Mr Jagjivan Ram said, "If it comes to that let there be a caste war. It would settle once for all the issue of 10 per cent people ruling over 90 per cent. In the event of such a conflict all backward classes given reservation would come together.

Mr Jagjivan Ram said that Gujarat had the proud privilege of spearheading the independence movement and now if the people of Gujarat thought that they would have the privilege of breaking up country, he had nothing to say.

Replying to another question he said, however, that he did not want a class war nor any bloodshed, but wanted justice for every section of the people.

A stage would come when there would be no need for caste-based reservations, he added.

In reply to a question, Mr Jagjivan Ram said there should not be a referendum on the issue of reservation as all political parties at the national level have declared that the reservation issue was not negotiable.

In reply to another question he said that there was no question of demanding a separate state for Harijans. It was not feasible as their population was scattered all over the country, he added.

When pointed out that the backward classes were not able to fully utilize their reserved quotas in different fields, he said that all efforts should be made to see that the quota was fully utilized by giving them more assistance.

In reply to another question, Mr Jagjivan Ram said he could not say whether any political party was behind the anti-reservation agitation in the State.

He also said in his talks with Harijans in the city, no one had complained that the agitating medical students were involved in incidents of violence and attacks on Harijans.

Referring to violence in the anti-reservation agitation, Mr Jagjivan Ram said that several Harijan families in Rajpur and Naroda areas had left their homes and taken shelter at other places.

He said the State Government had failed to handle the situation tactfully. Otherwise Harijan families would not have been forced to leave their homes.

He said Harijan families were still scared particularly of the police. He had asked Chief Minister Madhay Sinh Solanki to deploy BSF and troops in Harijan colonies to create confidence among them.

Mr Jagjivan Ram said the Government should provide protection to all and deal sternly with those who indulged in violence.

CSO: 4220

CPI(M) DELEGATE SPEAKS IN LOK SABHA BUDGET DEBATE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 81 p 5

(Text)

CPIM MP Sunil Motra on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Government policies noting that the Finance Minister's budget had declared a war on poorer sections of the society.

Participating in the budget in the Lok Sabha, Mr Motra said Mr Venkata Ramaswamy had assumed additional excise revenue at existing duty rates because he was certain that prices would skyrocket in 1981-82.

He said the Government was in fact trying to conceal the deplorable state of the economy behind a jugglery of statistics. The economy was emaciated and gasping on account of the 30 years of Congress misrule. He contested the Minister's claim that inflation had been checked and observed that the very day Mr Venkata Ramaswamy was making the claim the consumer price index was on the rise.

He ridiculed the tax holiday to corporate sector on the assumption that the big business would plough its resources into the economy, and in this context wanted the Finance Minister to explain how much money had been invested by the corporate sector last year on account of the concessions given.

While prices were mounting, the purchasing power of the peasantry was getting steadily eroded and every year two to three crores of peasants were becoming pauperised to join the ranks of the agricultural labourers. Contending that the all-round crisis had become 'carnelian', Mr Motra asserted that

with the prevailing class character the Government would not be able to implement land reforms in even a century.

He said the Finance Minister was going with "folded hands and bended knees" to the blackmarketeers for money now - that there was no more scope for imposing extra taxes or increased deficit financing. It was a sad spectacle to find the budget being formulated on the basis of Rs 1,000 crore expected to come from the blackmarketeers. In this situation, he had no option but to oppose the budget "lock, stock and barrel", he remarked.

Mr Mohan Lal Sukhadia (Cong-I) felt the Government should not let the people get the impression that black money would be periodically regularised or that the budget was dependent on black money. For that purpose he proposed appropriate administrative, tax and price policies in order to prevent further generation of black money. He called for steps to restore the health of the public sector.

Mr Ram Jethmalani (BJP) charged that the Government had struck a "deal with those who generate black money" and for that very reason it "has become permanently incompetent" to solve the black money problem. In his view the black money bearer bonds would legalise corruption.

Mr P V G Raja (Cong-I) said that the labour class should be given more representation in the legislatures and Parliament.

CPI LEADER SPEAKS IN LOK SABHA BUDGET DEBATE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] CPI leader Indrajit Gupta on Wednesday observed that Finance Minister R Venkataraman had produced a "gambler's budget" as he was relying mainly on undependable forces and speculative elements like big business, foreign assistance and black money bearer bonds.

Participating in the budget debate in the Lok Sabha, Mr Gupta said he would not contest Deputy Minister for Finance Maganbhai Barot's contention that people were dancing in the streets with joy on learning about the budget, but underlined that they belonged to only one section of the populace.

He said "vocal and articulate" persons belonging to the salaried middle class (but who, according to Mr Venkataraman's own definition, came within the purview of the 'bourgeois elite') had been given a sop by taking them out of the income tax net; rich farmers who were apprehensive of being brought under taxation had been left scot-free; and concessions doled out to the corporate sector.

Mr Gupta felt that the original emphasis for raising resources and increasing production had now shifted from the public sector to the private sector, since the present budget's stress was on how to placate the private sector.

Referring to the reduction in tax surcharge, Mr Gupta regretted the absence of any ceiling on dividends which could induce them to take recourse to such an action. In this context, he pointed to the manner in which bonus shares were being indiscriminately issued by companies, and said that in Hindustan Pilkington (closed for more than a year), the management had issued bonus shares worth several crores of rupees.

He said the short-term measure of importing petroleum could never be a substitute for our long-term comprehensive oil exploration programme. He could not support the idea of sharing production with foreign multinationals - specially when countries much smaller than India, like Mexico and Venezuela, had clearly stated that they were prepared to accept foreign technology but not on a production-sharing basis.

Mr Gupta felt making customs duty a major source of revenue would lead to a tendency to increase imports to the detriment of self reliance. By way of example he said, generators and machinery for the Neyveli project were being imported when these very equipments could be manufactured in India by the BHEL.

Mr Gupta wondered how Mr Venkateswara could get Rs 200 crores from black money bearer bonds when 20 days were left for the 1980-81 financial year to end, and only Rs 54 crores had been collected so far.

Among those who spoke, Mr M C Daga (C-I) was conspicuous by his sharply critical speech. He said budget should not be formulated from above but from the viewpoint of the common man in the lowest rung of society. In this context, he said "Ho Chi Minh can be the real person to understand what type of budget is required". In

his view, the Government had failed to reach the targets set by the successive Five-year Plans because of its reliance on a corrupt bureaucracy.

Intervening in the debate Deputy Minister for Finance Jagannath Barot confidently claimed that investment outlook was distinctly improved in the last one year and the new proposals in the 1981-82 budget would further boost investment.

Others who spoke included Mr Ravinder Verma (J), Mr T S Negi (DSP), Dr Balendra Kumar Bajpai (Cong-I) and Dr Digamber Singh (LD).

CSO: 4220

GUJARAT SIXTH PLAN 55 PERCENT HIGHER THAN DRAFT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Feb 81 p 13

[Text] Gandhinagar, February 18. The sixth five-year plan for Gujarat will have an outlay of Rs 3,760 crores marking a 55 per cent increase in the outlay of the earlier draft plan for the 1978-83 period.

The state's sixth plan and the annual plan for the next year was announced by the finance minister, Mr Sanat Mehta, while presenting his budget proposals in the state assembly yesterday.

The annual plan for the next year envisages an outlay of Rs 633.09 crores, an increase by about Rs 100 crores than the current year's plan size of Rs 537 crores.

Mr Mehta said the bigger size of the sixth plan would help the state to offset the 32 per cent price increase. The plan expenditure would exceed the entire 20 years' plan programmes of Rs 2,833 crores in the state from 1960 to 1980 and the per capita outlay of Rs 1,112 during the sixth plan period was higher than the corresponding figures of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

In the annual plan for the next year, the highest allocation of Rs 162.83 crores had been made for power development with the irrigation and flood control coming next with an allocation of Rs 147.29 crores, agriculture, social community and economic services Rs 98.95 crores, transport and communication Rs 59.92 crores, industries and mining Rs 36.92 crores and decentralised district development Rs 32 crores.

Nearly 50 percent of the outlay of the sixth plan has been earmarked for programmes included in the 20 point programme. While the water development, flood control and irrigation sector has been earmarked Rs 1,000 crores, the power sector gets Rs 964.84 crores and agriculture over Rs 506 crores.

Narmada Project

The largest single allocation has been made for the state's most important Narmada project with a provision of Rs 330 crores of which Rs 300 crores will be for irrigation and Rs 30 crores under the power sector from the project.

Mr Mehta announced that the work of excavation of foundation for the Narmada dam including that on the deep river channel was nearing completion while work on the exploratory tunnel for the underground river bed power house had been completed. He said the total expenditure on works on hand had been estimated at Rs 90 crores and a provision of Rs 78.81 crores had been made for the project for the next year as against the current year's allocation of Rs 47 crores.

The finance minister estimated that the Narmada project would increase the state's direct and indirect employment to roughly five lakh persons. At present nearly [figure illegible] technical personnel were working on the Sardar Sarovar project and the requirement of technical hands would increase by six times when the tempo of work on the project was at the maximum level.

In the power sector, Mr Mehta said, the Gujarat electricity board was executing various works to create an additional generation capacity of 1,715 Kw, over the present installed capacity of 2,384 Mw. The first two units of 219 Mw, each at the Wanakbori thermal station were expected to be commissioned by June and December this year while the fifth unit of 210 Mw at Ukai was expected to be commissioned by December next year. [as published]

CSO: 4220

MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT SEEKS FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Mar 81 p 6

[Text] The Maharashtra government is undertaking feasibility studies for setting up more industrial projects with foreign collaboration in the state.

The finance minister, Mr. Ramrao Adik, told the legislative assembly in his budget speech today that it was proposed to create a more conducive atmosphere to attract foreign investment.

The state had enough experience to utilise foreign assistance for different projects. There was good potential for investment from the West Asian countries, he said.

Over the last few years, a number of collaborations had been entered into in the state with Germans, American, Swiss, French and Italian industrial units. Besides, in the state sector, various projects had been implemented with the aid of the World Bank and the I.D.A. [as published]

However, industrial and agricultural production in the state had been hit during 190-81. [as published] The minister said that considering the average all-India index number for various industrial groups for the first eight months of 1980, it could be surmised that the production had declined by 1.6 per cent against the corresponding period of 1979.

As industrial production had picked up, the output in the remaining months of the financial year would not be less than that at the national level, he said.

The State economic survey, presented by the minister to the legislature today, attributed the fall in production mainly to shortages of key material and power.

Mr. Adik said the government had been considering the use of gas in place of high-speed diesel for public transport. It was also considering the setting up of an alumina plant in Ratnagiri district to process bauxite found in that region.

With more oil and gas fields being discovered off the West coast, there was scope for setting up industries to manufacture drilling equipment as well as equipment for laying pipelines.

The government, therefore, proposed to send a team to Canada and West Asian countries to explore the possibilities of setting up such industries.

On the basis of these efforts, it was proposed to set up projects in engineering, electronics, petrochemicals, production of alumina and leather with the eventual approval of the Centre.

In view of the fast developing energy crisis, it was proposed to set up 20,000 gobar gas plants during 1981-82 and 100,000 during the period up to 1985.

Though the target of kharif foodgrains production for 1980 was 7.6 million tonnes, the estimate now was for only 6.5 million tonnes because of an abnormal season. The recent forecast for rabi production was about 2.5 million tonnes against the target of 3.5 million tonnes.

The governor's address last week had stated that the crop loss due to a bad monsoon was estimated at Rs. 294 crores.

The minister said sugarcane production was likely to show an increase of 2.54 million tonnes in 1980-81.

Foodgrain Target

The target of foodgrain production for 1981-82 had been set at 11 million tonnes comprising 9.8 million tonnes of cereals and 1.2 million tonnes of pulses.

In view of the acute shortage of hybrid jawar and H-4 cottonseeds, it had been decided to have buffer stocks. Any loss involved in this stocking would be borne by the government. Accordingly, a provision of Rs. 103.55 lakhs for subsidy had been made in the budget for the Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation and the state Agro-Industries Development Corporation. Efforts were also being made to increase the production of oilseeds.

Several announcements by the minister were greeted with applause by the ruling party members. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Sharad Pawar, was conspicuous by his absence during the day.

The finance minister said the government had decided to build a new hostel for legislators at a cost of Rs. 8.47 crores. The reference that the rooms would have all amenities drew laughter from all sections of the house.

However, the opposition jeered immediately when the minister mentioned that Rs. 1 lakhs had been set aside in the budget for the purpose. Obviously, the opposition considered the amount paltry.

In view of the abundant availability of cottonseed, the finance minister said three oil processing units would be set up in Vidarbha and two in Marathwada during the sixth plan period, besides an oilseed complex being set up in Parbhani district in Marathwada with World Bank assistance.

/Mr. Adik also mentioned that a steering group under the chairmanship of Mr. J. R. D. Tata had been constituted to conduct a techno-economic survey to establish a link between Bombay and the mainland./ [in boldface]

The following are some allocations made in the budget:

An amount of Rs. 4 crores has been provided for development projects of the Nehru Centre at Worli, Bombay.

A grant of Rs. 1.90 crores had been provided for the Indira Gandhi Pratibha Pratishtan, which would serve people in the field of art and literature. The government had already contributed Rs. 10 lakhs during the current year.

It had been decided in principle to set up a university for Northern Maharashtra. Preliminary action was being initiated and funds would be provided at the appropriate time.

An amount of Rs. 1 crore had been proposed for a new bench of the high court at Aurangabad, which is expected to start functioning from August 15.

Small and medium newspapers had been given exemption from payment of sales tax on newsprint.

Job Guarantee Scheme

Under the employment guarantee scheme nearly 176,000 tonnes of foodgrains were to be distributed as wages in kind in addition to Rs. 88 crores as cash payment.

As the Centre's supplies of foodgrains, especially wheat, had now totally tapered off, the government had decided to pay the foodgrains component in cash.

A massive social forestry project is proposed during the sixth plan with aid from USAID with an outlay of Rs. 29.75 crores. Initially, the programme would be taken up in Buldhana, Pune, Sangli, Aurangabad and Dhule districts.

/The minister admitted that inflation during the past several months had been causing hardship to the people and he mentioned various steps the government was taking to provide essential commodities at fair prices./ [in boldface]

In the Year of the Disabled, it had been decided to provide artificial limbs at subsidised rates and various amenities to the handicapped. An outlay of Rs. 5.60 lakhs had been proposed. There would also be a reduction in sales tax on hearing aids from eight to four per cent.

CSO: 4220

FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES PROBLEMS OF INFLATION

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 10.

If the special bearer bonds scheme for mopping up black money failed, "I have several other schemes and I will come forward with them", Mr. R. Venkataraman, Union Finance Minister, told the Rajya Sabha today.

The Finance Minister, who was replying to questions on the continuing inflation in the country, however, declined to spell out the details of the other schemes he had in mind. "I have several other options. I can detail them, but this is not the proper time".

No Plan Now to Demonetise Currency

He, however, said: "The Government has no intention at present to demonetise" currency though he put a stress on the words "at present" twice. He gave the same reply in a written answer to another question that the "Government has no plan to demonetise currency notes of Rs. 10 and Rs. 100".

But Mr. Venkataraman expressed his confidence that the special bearer bonds scheme would succeed even beyond his expectations. "I still have the time", he said, "and I am hopeful of mopping up not only Rs. 1,000 crores, but a little more when the matter is settled. I expect to collect Rs. 200 crores during 1980-81 and I have no reason to change this view". So far the collection amounted to Rs. 50 crores.

Among the main causes of the inflationary conditions was the excess liquidity, which was "money outside the banking system". By mopping up that liquidity he could control inflation.

Mr. Venkataraman said that after the inflationary crisis "decelerated" in December last, yet another factor had emerged, i.e., the price hike in petroleum products which led to higher transport costs.

The 26.2 per cent of the price rise after December 1980 was due to the rise in the prices of petroleum products. While there was no doubt that when administered prices were increased the selling prices also go up, the question to be considered was whether the prices were increased above the cost of production.

Even now prices were below the cost of production and "there is still an element of subsidy".

In reply to criticism about the method of computation of increases in the price index Mr. Venkataraman said that he was following the correct practice of making a comparison between the levels of prices in January 1980 and 1981, "point to point".

In a written answer to a question on continued inflation, the Finance Minister had said that a combination of factors was responsible for the continued inflation since March 1979.

These included increases in the prices of imports, especially crude and petroleum products, and consequent rise in the prices of certain goods and services, supply constraints particularly of consumer goods, inadequacies of the infrastructure and growing liquidity in the system.

The impact of these factors was aggravated by the severe drought of 1979-80 which resulted in a decline in agricultural production and hydel generation and generally stimulated inflationary expectations.

PTI reports:

The overall growth rate of the economy in 1980-81 was likely to be 6.5 per cent in contrast to a decline of 4.5 per cent in the previous year.

"It is too early to estimate the growth rate likely to be achieved during 1981-82 though the Sixth Plan, (1980-85) envisages a growth rate of 5.2 per cent annually in gross domestic product", Mr. Venkataraman said.

No Dual Rates of Interest

Mr. Venkataraman, rejected a demand for fixing preferential rate of interest to encourage Indians settled abroad to deposit their earnings in Indian banks.

Fixing two different types of interest would be discriminatory to other depositors, he said in reply to questions from Mr. Ramanand Yadav and others.

Various other facilities were offered to encourage Indians abroad to invest foreign exchange in India, he said.

The Chairman, Mr. M. Hidayatullah today compared inflation to recession and depression in the following terms:

"Recession is when you have to tighten the belt. When there is depression, there is no belt to tighten. When there is inflation there is nothing to hold the belt".

CSO: 4220

CONFERENCE EXAMINES STATE OF BIHAR ECONOMY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] Patna, March 9.

A plea for policy changes and new initiatives by the Bihar government to create the right climate for stepping up the growth of both industry and trade in the state has been made by Mr. A. K. Jain, a leading industrialist.

In his keynote address to a two-day convention on industry and trade, which began here today, Mr. Jain pointed out that though endowed with vast mineral resources, Bihar's importance on the industrial map had been diminishing and the growth rate dwindling. He emphasised that unless remedial steps were taken without delay, the position would deteriorate and some of the industries might even be forced to close down.

Inaugurating the convention, the chief minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra, said Bihar, with its low per capita income, was lagging behind other states. However, the present government was determined to reverse this trend. The new industrial policy, launched already, was aimed at encouraging entrepreneurs to start new ventures and removing various factors which hampered growth.

The industries minister, Mr. Ramashray Prasad, captains of industry and trade from all over the country and leading economists are participating in the first-ever convention sponsored jointly by the state government and organisations representing industry and trade in the state. The convention, being held under the auspices of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, will discuss various hurdles in the way of growth in the state and ways and means of accelerating its pace.

Economic Development

Mr. Jain noted with satisfaction that the present government, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Mishra, was trying to give a fillip to industrial and economic development.

He pointed out that though the industrial growth rate was higher than that of agriculture, it was far too inadequate if one took into account the state's potential and needs. Productivity of investment already made and the employment potential generated by it presented a "bleak picture."

While the GNP had increased at an average rate of 3.5 per cent per year since the introduction of planning, Bihar's rate of growth had been only half as much. While the per capita national income had grown by around 1.3 per cent per annum, Bihar's per capita income growth had been negative.

In a lucid exposition of the sluggish state of Bihar's economy, Mr. Jain said banks and other financial institutions had often been criticised for neglecting the state's needs. It would be worthwhile examining what the government itself had been doing for the state. The per capita state plan expenditure was 82 per cent of the national level in the second plan.

In the sixth plan, it had been reduced to 64 per cent of the all-India level. "Unless the per capita plan expenditure is increased to a level higher than the national average, it is difficult to see how the leeway can be made up," he added.

During the third and fourth plans, Bihar received as much as 28 per cent of the total central investment in industry and minerals. But the allocation did not yield the desired results.

In the fifth plan, central investment in the state's industry and mining sectors went down to 11.3 per cent of the total national allocation. With central investment in Bihar yielding less output than elsewhere, the decline in investment efforts was not surprising.

Mr. Jain regretted that though Bihar got a headstart in respect of the basic goods industry, the state had failed to take full advantage of it by not resorting to diversification of ancillary industries.

He said Bihar accounted for only about three per cent of the funds disbursed as term loans by all-India finance institutions. This indicated that "industrial expansion, particularly in the private sector, had not been taking place at a rate fast enough to absorb more capital."

It was a pity that products and byproducts of the basic industries of Bihar were being sent outside the state to promote industrialisation elsewhere. Even the stag from Bokaro was not being allotted fully to the cement industry in the state. [as published]

Industries in the state were not getting any benefit from the proximity to sources of coal supply as they were forced to get coal by road at prohibitive cost. This was so because preference was being given to other states as far as movement of coal by rail was concerned. Removal of this anomaly would provide much relief to all industries in the state.

While pointing out that the industrial policy statement of the government contained many excellent measures aimed at encouraging new investment, Mr. Jain said no appreciable increase in such investment was likely "unless the existing industry is seen to be healthy, profitable and growing."

He said the power supply position in Bihar was perhaps worse than elsewhere. There were widespread, unplanned restrictions on supply besides trippings which resulted

in loss of production as well as material. Power charges in Bihar were among the highest in the country though the state had enormous coal resources.

Mr. Jain stated that there was a feeling among industry and trade circles that their interests were being neglected. "Today, in the name of protection of agriculture, labour and the consumer, industry is made to bear the burden of all manner of levies, many of them irrational and harmful to economic growth," he said.

While formulating its fiscal policy, the state government should keep in view the fact that "low tax rates on an expanding base will lead to growth and increased revenue, while high tax rates actually turn out to be self-defeating by constraining growth."

Mr. Jain called for a thorough review and rationalisation of the sales tax system. He urged the state government to withdraw the 10 per cent surcharge on sales tax imposed recently. He also pleaded for a rational policy in respect of royalty and bamboo.

Referring to reports that the Bihar forest corporation and the Bihar mineral development corporation were likely to take over mines and forests in the state, Mr. Jain said while there could be some justification for the takeover of leases operated by casual contractors, it would be inadvisable to do so in the case of "captive leases" of factories.

The country's capacity for cement production was proposed to be increased by 22 million tonnes in the sixth plan, but Bihar's share in this was negligible--only 0.13 million tonnes.

Mr. Jain said Bihar had suffered considerably as a result of the policy of "freight equalisation" in respect of cement and steel. Before the introduction of the freight pool for cement in 1956, Bihar accounted for a sizable portion of the national production. Since then "no new units have come up in the state and none is planned even now."

Mr. Jain stated that committees of experts, including the national transport policy committee, had found that freight equalisation policy was not optional and suggested that it should be phased out. They had expressed the view that the objectives of dispersal of industry and development of backward areas should be pursued through fiscal and administrative measures.

Mr. K. N. Sahay, mayor of Patna, welcomed the delegates and expressed the hope that the convention would succeed in making the government fully aware of various problems facing industry and trade in Bihar so that remedial measures could be initiated.

CSO: 4220

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL TELLS AIRCRAFT PURCHASE PLANS

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] The Indian Air Force would be taking on lease from the Indian Airlines two of the new Boeing-737 aircraft ordered by IA from the British company and due to be delivered in India in a couple of months.

These two Boeings which would form part of the VIP squadron would be in operation before the end of this year, according to Air Chief Marshal, I. H. Latif, Chief of the Air Staff.

The Air Chief accompanied by Mrs. Bilkees Latif arrived here today from Delhi by a special IAF jet on its way to Malaysia on a five-day visit.

He told newsmen at Meenambakkam airport that till the Boeing-737 aircraft ordered by the Government of India for the IAF's VIP squadron were available, the two new IA aircraft would be used for the purpose. Air Force pilots of the Transport Command and technicians were already undergoing training in Hyderabad for operating the Boeing.

He said proposals to manufacture under licence in India the MIG-23 aircraft were now under discussion.

The Malaysian Air Force personnel were undergoing training for quite some time in various air force establishments in India, the Air Chief said. Since many countries wished to send their trainees to IAF establishments, "we do not want to disappoint them". He hoped IAF would be able to make provision in training capacity. The matter was receiving the active consideration at the Air Headquarters.

The Air Chief was received at the airport by Air Marshal B. W. Chauhan, AOC-in-Chief, Training Command, Bangalore, and Air Commodore, K. Subramaniam, AOC, Air Force Station, Tambaram. Later he drove to Raj Bhavan. He is leaving for Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES INTEGRATED TEXTILE POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Mar 81 pp 1, 13

(Text) New Delhi, March 9.

The government today announced "an integrated textile policy framework" designed to ensure a rapid and harmonious growth of all sectors of the textile industry in a long-term perspective.

First priority has been accorded to the handloom sector and special efforts are promised to give it adequate supplies of yarn. Regulation of the growth of the powerlooms sector, increase in the production of controlled cloth, encouragement to the khadi sector, concrete steps to implement the multi-fibre policy and a more aggressive export strategy are the other highlights of the policy.

A copy of the policy statement laid on the table of the Lok Sabha today by the Union commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said that the policy announced by the erstwhile government in August, 1978, suffered from several drawbacks and did not provide the requisite impetus for a steady growth of the industry.

The new policy framework, it is claimed, is "comprehensive and integrated" and would allow various sectors of the industry to grow in harmony and lead to higher output, productivity, income and employment.

Six Main Objectives

The six main objectives of the policy are: increase in the production of cloth of acceptable quality at reasonable prices, balanced growth of all sectors of the textile industry in consonance with national priorities and targets of the five-year plans, maximum possible growth of handlooms in the decentralised sector and faster growth of khadi, hosiery and natural silk sectors to generate more employment and raise the standard of living of small weavers and others; streamlining of the infrastructure for distribution of cloth to weaker sections of the population; encouraging use of man-made fibres while maintaining the dominant position of cotton and generation of surplus to produce fabrics of acceptable standards for export.

The overall requirement of cloth for domestic use and for exports at the end of the sixth plan period (1984-85) has been assessed at 13,600 million metres. While fixing the sectoral targets, top priority has been given to the handloom sector, which will be called upon to achieve the maximum quantum possible.

The integrated approach to meet the increased requirement of cloth will involve revival of dormant looms, sustained modernisation of handlooms, powerlooms and the organised mill sector; and any marginal expansion in the weaving capacity of the organised mill sector oriented specifically for exports.

The National Handloom Development Corporation will be assigned the main role for procuring and distributing yarn to the handloom sector at reasonable prices. The government will encourage the formation of a network of co-operatives for effective integration of spinning, weaving and processing activities.

The existing infrastructure of the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology and Weaving Service Centres will be strengthened and a new Institute of Handloom Technology will be set up for the north-eastern region.

The growth of the powerloom sector, which has been haphazard in the past, would be regulated and monitored within the framework of a realistic policy. To begin with, the existing unauthorised powerloom would be regularised on payment of a fee. Fresh expansion of capacity would be so regulated that at the end of 1984-85 it should not be more than five per cent over the base year. Moreover, such expansion would be permitted in respect of handloom co-operative societies only.

The production of controlled cloth will be stepped up to 650 million square metres to make low-prices cloth available to weaker sections of the population. Controlled cloth production would be restricted to saris, dhotis and long cloth. Roughly, half the quantity produced would be of saris. It is proposed to give the handloom sector a progressively increasing share in the controlled cloth scheme.

Technology Import

The National Textile Corporation will undertake a modernisation programme aimed at improving the quality of yarn and fabrics and reducing costs and expanding its spinning capacity in yarn deficit areas, particularly in the eastern region. It will also endeavour to upgrade its product-mix in consonance with the national pattern of cloth consumption.

To give effect to the multi-fibre policy, the concrete steps to be taken will include: ready availability of synthetic fibre and yarn in adequate quantities from domestic sources augmented by imports when necessary, fiscal levies on man-made fibre and yarn will be reviewed, and liberalisation of export of cotton and other fibre or yarn that may be surplus to domestic requirements.

The government policy of giving loans for modernisation of the industry will continue. Steps will be taken to augment the production base of the textile machinery industry and textile accessories, import of appropriate technology and critical components of machinery will be allowed wherever necessary.

The government will try to ensure adequate availability of cotton, the main raw material of the textile industry. Cotton growers will be assured reasonable prices for their produce through the intervention of the Cotton Corporation of India and increased emphasis on collectivisation of the cotton trade.

Support will be given to the central silk board and state governments for rapid development of the sericulture industry.

"Growth-Oriented"

The government will also promote the growth of the woollen sector to ensure adequate availability of woollens and blankets at reasonable prices to economically weaker sections, particularly those living in the hill regions. Programmes will be undertaken to increase the domestic wool supply and upgrade its quality. Liberal imports of quality wool as well as shoddy and increased use of acrylic will be allowed. Hosiery units will be encouraged to expand and develop.

Mr. Saran Singh, textiles secretary, later told newsmen: "We hope the policy is growth oriented."

Of the projected total production of 13,600 million metres, 4,100 million metres would be in the handloom sector, 4,300 million in powerlooms and 4,900 million in the organised sector. The remaining 300 million metres would be in the khadi sector.

Mr. Singh said the new policy was being "realistic" about powerlooms. As on December 31, 1979, there were 4.83 lakh powerlooms in the country. Since then 1.06 lakh unauthorised powerlooms had been regularised. He could not say what the total number of unauthorised powerlooms in the country was today.

Of the proposed production of 650 million square metres of controlled cloth, a half would be assigned to handlooms. In the organised sector, the bulk would go to the National Textile Corporation. The private sector was under no obligation to produce controlled cloth.

Mr. Singh said that mills would be reimbursed any losses if they were required to sell cloth at below the cost of production.

A correspondent drew his attention to the replacement of the word "low" in the 1978 policy statement with "reasonable" in respect of cloth prices and asked if this implied a raising of rates in future. Mr. Singh said "reasonable" was the most appropriate word in the circumstances and cloth prices could not be insulated from the general inflation.

C80: 4220

INDO-SOVIET COOPERATION IN PULP, PAPER DESCRIBED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Mar 81 pp 1, 7

[Text]

MOSCOW, March 8 (PTI) — The USSR will buy from India woollen cloth used in paper-making and cardboard machines, according to Mr G Provin, Deputy Minister of the Timber, Pulp-and-Paper, and Wood-Working Industry.

Soviet organisations, reports APN, have prepared technical proposals for the deliveries of equipment to India for the manufacture of various types of technical paper and cotton pulp. Concrete measures have also been taken to promote scientific and technical cooperation in the field of the reduction of water consumption, purification of sewage and regeneration of chemicals.

prises for the manufacture of specialised types of paper, such as condenser paper, paper base for copying, fine technical paper, industrial filter paper and boards, and modernisation and reconstruction of existing enterprises.

Carrying out joint research and development, exchange of information and know-how in the field of technology of the production of technical paper and boards from Indian raw materials, working out of environmental protection systems for enterprises for the pulp and paper industry in India, the reduction of energy and water expenditures on the manufacture of pulp and paper, and elaboration of

the regeneration process of chemicals are also included in the programme.

Joint participation of Soviet and Indian organisations in designing and building enterprises of the pulp and paper industry in third countries formed as

Since 1978, cooperation between the USSR and India has been developing in this field. A Soviet delegation of experts visited India, followed by a reciprocal visit to the USSR by a team of Indian specialists to study and identify new areas of cooperation.

On this basis, a working programme of cooperation was signed in 1979 between the two countries with a view to increasing the output and enlarging the varieties of pulp and paper products in India with Soviet technical aid.

The programme also envisaged setting up in India enter-

important aspect in the working programme.

The output of paper, board and pulp in the USSR goes up with every passing year. In 1980, the USSR produced 5.3 million tonnes of paper.

FALL IN OPIUM EXPORTS AFFECTS FOREIGN EARNINGS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Mar 81 p 10

[Text] India has lost nearly Rs 60 crores in foreign exchange earnings over the last two years owing to cutbacks in the normal volume of opium exports.

The forced shortfall has come owing to increasing competition in the licit world market where India was till recently the sole supplier of opium for medicinal purposes.

Whereas till about two years ago, opium exports from India accounted for nearly the whole of the average yearly produce of 1,300 tons, the volume had fallen to just about 900 tons in 1980. This year, the figure is expected to go even lower to 500 tons.

Also the revenue from the exports has gone down since owing to competition, prices have been slashed from 60 dollars per kg to 45 dollars.

By the end of the year, it is estimated that India will have a stock of nearly 2,500 tons of unsold opium at the stores in Ghazipur in UP and Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh.

Narcotic officials are afraid that the storage of such huge quantities of the narcotic drug will severely strain security operations.

CSO: 4220

PLANS TO DECLARE GANGES A NATIONAL WATERWAY REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 10.--A Bill is to be introduced in Parliament soon to declare the Ganges a national waterway. Once a waterway is declared national property, it becomes the responsibility of the Central Government to undertake such operations as conservancy, river training, marking of channels for navigational purposes, periodical hydrographic surveys and dredging. [as published]

Hydrographic surveys and techno-economic feasibility studies have to be made before declaring a waterway as national. [as published] Some of the criteria for any waterway to be declared national property is that it must be an inter-State waterway: it should connect a major port; it should connect places not served by other means of communication; it should satisfy special economic-commercial considerations; and it should have a traffic potential of not less than 100,000 tonnes a year by mechanically propelled vessels.

In addition to the Ganges certain other inland waterways are being considered for national waterway status. These are the Sunderbans, the Brahmaputra, the Godavari, the Narmada, the Tapti and the Krishna. [as published] The Central Government last year earmarked Rs 55 lakhs for hydrographic surveys of these waterways.

The Minor Ports Survey Organization, under the Ministry of Shipping and Transport, has been entrusted with the hydrographic surveys of the Ganges between Farakka and Allahabad and the Sunderbans' area. The Farakka-Allahabad survey is expected to be completed by May 1982. The Sunderbans' survey is expected to be ready by 1982-83.

The hydrographic surveys of other waterways will be taken up after the studies in hand are completed. The feasibility study of the Ganges between Farakka and Haldia was carried out by a group of consultants last year. The study has established the technical feasibility and economic viability of running inland water transport services on this stretch of the river. It is on the basis of the results of this survey that it has been proposed to table a legislation to give the Ganges the status of a national waterway.

The consultants have identified the location of nine river terminals and have suggested the facilities to be provided at these locations. A similar feasibility study of the Ganges between Farakka and Allahabad is also proposed to be undertaken. The study will also identify the location of suitable river terminals in

this stretch of the river. This study is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

A pre-feasibility study of the Narmada and the Narmada main canal for navigation is also proposed to be taken up shortly. Similar studies of the other waterways will be taken up during the Sixth Plan, subject to the availability of funds.

The National Transport Policy Committee has recommended the establishment of an Inland Waterway Authority of India to look after all matters relating to inland water development, operation and maintenance. This recommendation is now under the consideration of the Government.

CSO: 4220

KERALA AGAINST DIVERSION OF WATER TO TAMIL NADU

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Mar 81 p 11

[Text] Trivandrum, March 9.

Kerala will not permit diversion of any quantity of water from west-flowing rivers in the State to neighbouring Tamil Nadu without the specific consent of the State Government, the Minister of Electricity, Mr. R. Balakrishna Pillai, who is also in charge of inter-State waters, told the Kerala Assembly on Monday.

The Minister was replying to a calling attention motion raised by Mr. A. P. Hamza (Muslim League), that attempts were being made to divert water from some tributaries of the Kanhirapuzha and the Bhavani rivers to Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Hamza said that at certain places, weirs had been constructed by Tamil Nadu for diverting the waters. The officials of the Electricity Board who noticed this also made some enquiries reaching these places via Ooty.

These activities, he said, came to light when the expert committee on Silent Valley project, headed by Prof. M. G. K. Menon spotted them while surveying the area in a helicopter.

Such constructions had taken place in the past too, and a similar construction in the Siruvani compelled the State to give water for Tamil Nadu. The present activities, if allowed to continue, would affect the irrigation needs of the State.

Mr. Balakrishna Pillai in his reply, said the Government had not come across the construction of weirs or dams by Tamil Nadu in these rivers flowing through Kerala. The officials of the Electricity Board and Irrigation Department were, however, keeping vigil.

The Tamil Nadu Government had submitted to the Centre some schemes for the use of the waters of these rivers, in its area. The Kerala Government had opposed this on the ground that the schemes could be taken up only after settling the Cauvery waters dispute, as these rivers were linked to the Cauvery basin.

The Government was aware of some investigations being conducted by Tamil Nadu Authorities in these rivers in Tamil Nadu area. The studies were mainly to assess the quantity of water flowing and the prospects of this flow being utilised.

"I would, however, say that diversion of water would not be permitted by the Kerala Government without its specific approval," the Minister said.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER REPORTS ON DROUGHT IN RAJASTHAN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Feb 81 p 5

[Text] Union Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh on Thursday said it was not possible to provide full compensation for losses suffered by the people in natural disasters like floods and famines.

Answering a calling attention motion in the Rajya Sabha on the drought and famine situation in Rajasthan, the Minister however, assured that both the State and Central Government had given the highest priority to measures not only to mitigate the existing hardships, but also to avoid any future hardships.

The drought in the State, he said, had affected a population of 1.68 crore in 21,365 villages. The Centre had not been able to fully meet the assistance requested, by the State, but had, however, sanctioned a short-term loan of Rs 16.5 crore--of which Rs 7.50 crore was for kharif and the rest for the rabi crop supply of agricultural inputs to the farmers.

On the basis of the recommendations of a Central team which visited the State in November for an on the spot study and following the recommendations of a high-level committee on relief, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs 20.19 crore had been approved of purposes of Central assistance, including Rs 12 crore for employment generation schemes.

Mr Jaswant Singh, who had moved the calling attention motion with Mr J. P. Mathur, Mr R. L. P. Gupta, Mr Kairaj Mishra and Mr Nageshwar Prasad Shahi, for an all-round assistance, including increase in power supply, permission by neighbouring States to grazing by the drought affected cattle and provision to transport animals from the annual cattle fairs.

The Minister said that under the "food for work" programme Rajasthan was allocated 1.10 tonnes of foodgrains in addition to the carryover stock of 93.226 tonnes.

Besides, he said, under the national rural employment programme an addition allocation of 10,400 tonnes of foodgrains and cash assistance of Rs 1.82 crore towards material component and Rs 57.20 lakh towards wage support had been sanctioned.

Moving the motion, Mr Jaswant Singh (Janata) said that famine in Rajasthan had already created a "depressing and terrible" situation which had been compounded by the absence of foodgrains, drinking water, diesel and "above all the Government in Rajasthan."

The Minister said the Rajasthan Government had already spent Rs 12.90 crore on the supply of drinking water and a sum of over Rs 41 crore would be spent on it in the coming months to improve supply.

The employment generation, he said, had also picked up considerably during the past few months. As against a total employment of 12,000 persons a day at in November last, the number had already swelled to 3.41 lakh this month. [as published]

An amount of Rs 42 crore was available with the State Government for employment generation schemes.

Rao Birendra Singh said the Centre had asked Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to allow grazing facilities for cattle coming from Rajasthan, in their land forests either free of cost or at nominal rates.

Maintaining that both the Centre and the Rajasthan Government were fully seized of the drought situation, the Minister expressed the hope that with the present allocations under the various Plan and Central assistance schemes, the State Government would not be lacking in funds in organising relief works to the maximum extent possible.

Mr S. C. Jha (Janata) urged the Government to take effective steps to provide larger material and financial assistance to the State government to mitigate hardships of people hit by prolonged drought conditions.

Rao Birendra Singh informed Ramniwas Mirdha that a sum of Rs 18.5 lakh had been released from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for Rajasthan.

Replying to Mr S. W. Dhabe said 168 lakh were reportedly affected by drought.

The Minister informed Mr Chathunni Master that in view of meagre resources, neither the Centre nor the State government could afford to pay full compensation to those affected by natural calamities.

He agreed with Mr N. P. Shahi that the Centre had not been able to allocate higher funds for Rajasthan. Millions of rupees were however being spent for converting the Jaisalmer desert into a green belt.

CSO: 4220

SLOWDOWN IN INDUSTRIAL GROWTH REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Feb 81 p 5

[Text] The compound growth in industrial production during the last five years worked out to 5.2 per cent, Minister of State for Industry Charanjit Chanana said in the Rajya Sabha in a written reply to Mrs Kanak Mukherjee on Thursday reports PTI.

The percentage change in provisional index of industrial production for those years is 7.2 per cent in 1975-76 9.6 per cent in 1976-77 3.3 per cent in 1977-78 7.6 per cent in 1978-79 and (--) 1.4 per cent in 1979-80. [as published]

Replying to a written question of Mr Kalpnath Rai, he said the industrial production showed a revival since July last year and the index for December last based on provisional information, was 9.4 per cent higher than in the corresponding month of the previous year.

Dr Chanana said the production of crucial industries put together namely, electricity, coal, saleable steel, petroleum refinery products, crude petroleum and cement worked out to 11.3 per cent higher in January this year than in the corresponding month last year.

He told Mr K. L. N. Prasad in a written reply that 59 major industries showed a negative rate of growth as per provisional data during the first seven months of the current financial year.

A review of 148 selected industries on the basis of provisional data showed 23 of them in the range of growth rates of zero to five per cent.

Job-Seekers

The total number of job-seekers with education upto matriculation or above on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in the country as on 30 June last year was 7662.1 thousand. Minister of State for Labour Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha said in the Rajya Sabha in a written reply to Mr S.C. Jha.

Their break up in thousands is: matriculates--422.1 higher secondary and intermediates--1980.0, engineering graduates 19.5 medical graduates--13.7 other graduates--1310.6 engineering post graduates--0.4 medical post-graduates--1.5 and other post-graduates--112.3.

DELHI PLANS 5-YEAR PROGRAM FOR GOLD PROSPECTING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 8.--The Centre has drawn up a five-year programme for the exploration of gold in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Kerala and Maharashtra. The plan is to be jointly executed by the Geological Survey of India and the Mineral Exploration Corporation.

Drilling of 44,300 metres, exploratory mining of 5,460 metres, analysis of 45,000 samples and mapping of 2,250 square metres are contemplated in gold prospecting at Kolar, Singhbhum and other areas. In the light of this programme the MEC has drawn up schemes of detailed exploration in areas of Ramgiri (Andhra Pradesh) and Kolar (Karnataka).

Major resources of gold so far estimated include a gold-bearing rock of 0.3 million tonnes with 5.5 grammes a tonne in the Mallappakonda area of Chittoor district and of more than 3.1 million tonnes in the Kolar gold field in Karnataka.

In the Ramgiri area in Anantapur gold belt in Andhra Pradesh, Bharat Gold Mines has set up a nucleus of activity with milling facilities in the Yeppamana mine area. The MEC proposes to develop the Yerrappa-Gantalappa section further south. The Kottapallo area in the Ramagiri gold field and in the nearby schist belts such as Pamidi-Ramagiri-Penukonda-Kadiri and Valiagallu will be taken up by the GSI.

In the Kolar schist belt, two areas which are likely to yield moderate ores are being explored through surface studies, drilling and exploratory mining by the GSI and MEC. Simultaneously, integrated multidisciplinary surveys by the GSI are in progress to locate likely workable deposits in the northern part of the schist belt.

Exploration is being carried out in the Mutti gold mines area in Karnataka, where the probability of locating and developing more ore bodies exists. Exploratory mining by the MEC is proposed for the Budhini block, earlier explored by the GSI. Investigations will be extended to other favourable blocks in the belt.

In the Gadag belt in Karnataka, the GSI will carry out investigations, especially in the western part. Closely following this work, the MEC will take up exploratory mining and detailed drilling in the Hosur-Champion and Mysore mines which are likely to result in the establishment of a new mining centre.

Detailed exploration by the MEC be carried out in several identified blocks, such Aijanahalli and Kampinkote. [as published] The GSI will simultaneously investigate several prospects in Shimoga, Tumukur and Mysore districts.

At present gold production in the country is confined to the Kolar gold fields and the Mutti gold fields in Karnataka. Both these fields produce about 3,000 kg of gold every year, which is insignificant, being only 0.2% of the world production. The proven gold reserves in these two fields at the present level of production are expected to sustain mining operations for the next 15 to 18 years. In the Kolar gold mines, the potential of increasing production hardly exists, whereas the Mutti belt has a large potential of low-grade ore.

The international price of gold has been continuously rising since 1968 because of periodical hikes in the international prices of crude petroleum, increased industrial demand especially from the fast-growing electronics industry, the role of gold as a good hedge against inflation and as a dependable store of value, and cornering of marketed stocks of gold by the Arab and the West Asian countries.

intensive exploration, which was worked out in the past; but subsequently closed because of the then favourable economic and operational conditions can now be taken up with advantage for exploration in view of significantly high gold prices on the world market, it was officially stated.

CSO: 4220

COMMITTEE REPORTS ON JANATA GOVERNMENT'S GOLD AUCTIONS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] The Puri Committee report, questioning the role of Mr Morarji Desai and Mr H M Patel in the Janata Government's gold auctions, has said: "The motive seems to be other than public interest," reports PTI.

Mr K R Puri, former Governor of the Reserve Bank, has also reported a prima facie strong suspicion of cornering of gold by a syndicate in Bombay and recommended that the Government might like to pursue the matter.

An important information about gold reserves was held back from the Cabinet and Parliament in 1978 but was disclosed by Dr I G Patel, the Reserve Bank Governor, to the Press in Bombay, the reports says. [as published]

The information was used by the trade to their advantage.

The Puri report has strongly suggested that the minimum accepted price at the auction was leaked out to a group of bidders. It has spoken of windfall profits by auction purchasers.

Recommending follow-up action, Mr Puri has said there was prima facie strong suspicion that 1101 bidders had been mere name-lenders in relation to the purchase of around four tonnes of gold valued at Rs 26.7 crores. So much of gold can be said to have been cornered by the syndicate.

On procedures adopted for the sale of gold, Mr Puri has said:...."It can be said without any doubt that the procedures evolved for gold sales were meant to benefit a few persons in the gold trade to the exclusion of the rest and consequently cannot be regarded as having been evolved so as to subserve the public interest. [as published]

The modus operandi for cornering gold appeared to have been three-fold, Mr Puri reports.

--Purchase of gold themselves by the group of individuals and firms concerned.

--Financing other dealers for purchase of gold. The gold purported to have been purchased by the financed dealers did not appear to have been received by them and

such non-receipt was covered up by showing that the gold had been converted into ornaments and sold to non-existent persons.

--Manipulating prices of gold in the market, thus influencing the pattern of bidding, which resulted in the elimination of a large number of bidders not belonging to the syndicate.

The report contends that Mr Morarji Desai, the then Prime Minister, and Mr H M Patel, former Finance Minister, could not have been unaware while deciding on gold auctions about the continuous rise in international as well as domestic prices of gold.

Had the Government waited, more resources could have been realised as price of gold was rising and this could have helped the Government further reduce the budgetary gap.

To give the scheme of gold sales a garb of an anti-smuggling measure and to propose it as a device to reduce the budgetary gap appears to be a mere smokescreen for which the motive seems to be other than the public interest, Mr Puri holds.

CSO: 4220

GUJARAT ESTABLISHES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Mar 81 p 7

(Text)

The Gujerat don't let grass grow under their feet when it comes to capitalising on a good idea. Take the energy crisis for example. While the Southern States keep wringing concern after concern, where a lot of work is done about the power shortage, the Gujerat Government has already set up an Energy Development Agency (GEDA), an autonomous body for supporting development, demonstration and extension work in the areas of renewable sources of energy—particularly those considered relevant to the State.

This is not just another of those politically inspired Government initiatives meant to provide assurances for the favoured. It has as its Chairman a dynamic industrialist, Mr. Narulchand B. Amn, the founder of Jyoti Ltd., who has had a lifelong interest in the field of energy and is on the Advisory Committee on new and renewable energy sources appointed by the Government of India.

The establishment of GEDA was the result of the keen follow-up efforts made by Mr. Amn after he became Chairman of a sub-committee on "implications of photosynthesis as fuel source" set up by the Gujerat Government in 1974.

Mr. Amn has also been instrumental in the setting up of the Jyoti Solar Energy Institute at Baroda with the main objectives of education and research in the area of renewable energy resources. In less than two years of its existence, the institute has established itself as one of the leading research centres in the area of bio-gas and solar energy and is offering a post-graduate diploma in the subject of solar energy utilisation.

Normally in India, a semi-Government body would be expected to take a couple of years just to furnish its office and engage staff before thinking of starting any activity. Being headed by a go-getting industrialist makes a radical difference for GEDA, within just a year of its existence, has already embarked on a number of significant and major

demonstration programmes in the area of renewable sources of energy.

Four of them are described below:

(i) **Photovoltaic Solar Cookers.** A solar cooker was first developed in India as long back as in 1945 by Mr. M. K. Chacko of Jamshedpur. Later in 1963 the NPCI designed a prototype model. However, because of the abundant and cheap supply of fossil fuels then, the solar cooker idea did not take off.

But after the 1973 petroleum price hike and the rapidly diminishing resources of firewood due to the rapid deforestation in the country, the solar cooker has become a viable and attractive proposition.

GEDA has estimated that in Gujerat, if the solar cooker is used to cook at least 50 per cent of the food of a family of six persons, the conventional fuel saved per year could be 600 kg of firewood or 600 kg of coal or 200 litres of kerosene.

Based on the estimate, GEDA prepared a bold programme to market 2,000 box-type solar cookers to the public at a subsidized rate of Rs. 200 each, the actual cost of manufacturing being Rs. 500 each.

While the total subsidy on these devices amounted to Rs. 8 lakhs, the life-time savings to the State in the cost of conventional fuel replaced would be anywhere between Rs. 38 lakhs and Rs. 100 lakhs, assuming a conservative 10-year life for the devices.

It was, of course, with some hesitancy that GEDA launched the scheme, since a new product, in fact a new concept, was being marketed. Orders for a thousand box-type solar cookers each were placed on the Khadi Gramodyog Prayog Samiti (Ahmedabad) and the Yatra Vidyutya Bharati which had developed introductory models.

To the pleasant surprise of GEDA, on the very first day of the opening of sales on November 1 last year, firm orders were booked for all the 2,000 cookers. The agency is flooded with orders for 5,000 more.

There is an ideal scheme for simulation by the Governments of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu—based in their turner districts which are usually short of firewood.

(ii) **Decentralized Power Plants based on Energy Plantations.** Another major project (and the first of its kind in India) of GEDA is a demonstration power plant of 1.5 MW capacity based on wood fuel obtained from special plantations of quick growing tree species.

Gujerat is far away from the coal belt, has no nuclear power plants and little unutilised hydel capacity. As the State is industrialising rapidly (it is now No. 2 in the country in terms of industrialisation) there is an urgent need to look for alternative fuels for producing electric power.

One such fuel source is wood obtained from high density and short rotation forestry, popularly known as energy plantations.

The scheme proposed envisages the setting up of a 500-hectares experimental energy plantation at Sardar Kankrejgar by the Gujerat Agricultural University for which GEDA is funding Rs. 48 lakhs over a period of five years. Work on the plantation has started and the first cutting is expected in 1984. The State Electricity Board will be putting up the power plant, erection work on which will begin in 1982.

An important feature of this programme is the parallel research effort on identification of appropriate tree species as well as quantification of their growth rates as a function of various input parameters.

As for the economics of the scheme, whole investment of the GEDA can be recovered just in the form of fuelwood produced in the first cycle itself. The plantation will yield 35,000 tonnes of fuelwood (a very conservative estimate) in the first cycle of five years which, at the present price of Rs. 150 per dry tonne, would yield a cash inflow of Rs. 52 lakhs.

However, the primary objective of GEDA is to prove the viability of the energy plantation concept. The delivered price of coal to power plants in Gujarat is around Rs. 220 per tonne. While the calorific value of the coal is said to be 4,800 Kcal/Kg by the coal company, it is at times actually as low as 3,800 Kcal/Kg. The delivered price of dry wood of calorific value 5,700 Kcal/Kg, from the plantation to the thermal plants, will be around Rs. 180 per tonne.

Thus, energy plantations will provide Gujarat with a renewable, cheap and clean fuel source (double whammy).

had for power production. An added benefit will be the improved environmental benefits to the enhanced tree cover of the land.

(3) Solar Power/Cold Storage

In the light of the cropping pattern of the State and the need for storage of perishable produce throughout the year, GEDA has awarded a contract for a 10-acre capacity cold storage powered by solar energy.

The project embodies a number of innovations in the conventional cold storage design and is expected to be ready for demonstration by the end of 1981.

(4) Wind energy conversion systems
Gujarat happens to have a long coast line where reasonably high wind velocities are found throughout the year. Recognizing the potential for wind power for both rural water irrigation and village water supply, GEDA has undertaken to fund the setting up of demonstration wind mills at a number of sites.

There is no reason why the Southern States, where agriculture and engineering manpower is not lacking, cannot follow the Gujarat project and make alternative energy schemes on a commercial level.

ARUNACHAL CHIEF MINISTER DESCRIBES OIL FIND

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Itanagar, March 8 (PTI)

Oil struck in Kharsang area of Arunachal Pradesh can sustain a refinery according to Chief Minister Gegong Apang.

Mr Apang made this announcement in a press release after detailed discussions here with officials of Oil India Limited (OIL) to acquaint himself with the progress of oil drilling in the Union Territory.

Oil has also been found in Dalbung and nearby areas of Arunachal Pradesh during investigation by Geological Survey of India (GSI), the release said and added the resident executive of oil, Major Jatar, and the chief of GSI are currently here assessing the progress of oil exploration.

According to oil sources at Gauhati, the oil found at Kharsang structure may prove to be commercially viable. Drilling operations last year revealed the existence of several reservoirs of oil and natural gas under the earth at Kharsang, they said.

The oil from Kharsang well six is of much lighter grade. Preliminary tests have revealed that it is more amenable to conventional refining.

The flow rate in initial test is higher than in the other wells of Kharsang and compares well with those of Nahorkatiya oil field in upper Assam, sources added.

Oil India has initiated a study into the prospect of developing the first ever oil field in Arunachal Pradesh following the initial tests.

It has drawn up a programme for drilling a chain of new well in the area towards the end of this year. [as published] Building of infrastructure like new roads is expected to be completed before the onset of monsoon, despite the difficult terrain, sources said.

A feature of Kharsang exploration is the accumulation of oil in 'significant' quantities in young geological formations below older rocks, sources said adding this can open up completely new vistas of exploration not only in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam but also in other parts of India.

Oil India has two oil fields in Upper Assam--Nahorkatiya and Moran. Subsequently, the Jorajan field in Dihing reserve forest between Digbol and Duliajan was discovered.

Currently road building, installation of oil collecting stations and pipe laying are in progress in this thick forest area for developing it into a full-fledged oil field within the stipulated timeframe.

Oil was first struck at Kharsang structure in 1976 when Oil India drilled here up to a depth of about 950 metres. [as published]

CSO: 4220

PETROLEUM MINISTER TELLS PLANS FOR GAS-BASED PROJECTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] The first gas-based petroleum and chemicals units will be set up in Maharashtra, Petroleum Minister P C Sethi informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, reports UNI.

He said in a written answer that a gas based petrochemical project would also be set up in Gujarat. Details of the projects were being worked out. It was anticipated that work on these projects would commence in 1981-82.

Mr Sethi said the estimated capital cost of the Hazira fertiliser project in Gujarat as approved by the Government in December 1979 was Rs 622.9 crores. The results of the negotiations with the World Bank for obtaining loan for the project was awaited.

In reply to a question Mr Sethi said that in addition to the projects under implementation action would be initiated in a phased manner during the sixth Plan to take up construction of eight new nitrogenous and 11 new phosphatic fertiliser plants.

The proposal for setting up a fertiliser project in Paradip was being processed by the Government for an investment decision which was expected to be taken soon. [as published] The question of obtaining assistance from the World Bank for the project was under discussion, he said.

One of the six additional gas-based fertiliser plants was proposed to be located in Rajasthan. A site selection committee had been appointed to recommend the optimum locations for the six plants.

CSO: 4220

SEMINAR DISCUSSES HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANNING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Mar 81 p 10

[Text] Fifteen-year Power plans for the hydro-electric sector are likely to be finalised soon, Chairman of the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation P. M. Beliappa said on Saturday.

Earlier, addressing a seminar on accelerated hydro-electric development, Secretary in the Energy Ministry D V Kapoor said 15-year plans were being mooted instead of the five-year plans for hydel development.

Mr Beliappa, who was briefing newsmen on the conclusions of the seminar, said several countries and foreign firms had offered assistance in the development of hydro-electric power. Experts from France, Switzerland, the UK, Canada and Italy were among the 300 power engineers participate in the seminar organised under the aegis of the NHPC on Thursday and Friday. [as published]

Mr Beliappa pointed out that Energy Minister A B A Ghani Khan Choudhury was on record having said that in selective areas "we should not hesitate to go in for foreign collaboration". The idea of accepting such collaboration was to expedite commissioning of projects.

The seminar recommended close examination of projects in order to decide on the induction of latest technology and equipment to meet the time schedule.

Asked to identify certain specific areas for import of foreign technology, Mr Beliappa referred to tunneling and construction management as well as construction planning.

The seminar proposed that investigation of hydel projects should be done by a multidisciplinary team headed by a project engineer.

CSO: 4220

FOREIGN OFFERS ON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS RECEIVED

Madras THE HTNDU in English 9 Mar 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 8.

Offers have been received from a number of companies abroad for collaboration in the construction of hydro-electric projects and these will be evaluated by the Government of India on a case-by-case basis. Some of them have also shown interest in providing financial assistance.

At a news conference on Saturday, Mr. P. M. Bellappa, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), said the Government would not hesitate to accept foreign collaboration if it would help the expeditious completion of hydel projects in the context of the power shortage faced by the country and the delays in the commissioning of hydel projects.

Mr. Bellappa said among the areas, where import of foreign technology and equipment would be acceptable

to the Government was tunnelling for hydel projects. Different types of equipment were used abroad to achieve the best results in concrete alignment and drilling.

He said NHPC would set up a contract and procurement group to take decisions on the selection of contractors for hydel projects and the procurement of machinery and equipment. A nucleus of the group had already been formed and it would be strengthened.

Replying to a question on the delay in the implementation of hydel projects on account of inter-State disputes, Mr. Bellappa said Mr. A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri, Union Energy Minister, had already taken the initiative of calling the States concerned and suggesting to them that wherever there were disputes the projects could be taken up for implementation by the Centres.

CSO: 4220

EXPORTING UNITS HIT BY RISE IN STEEL PRICES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Feb 81 p 13

[Text]

MR. M. D. Jindal, Regional Chairman (Eastern region) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, said at a Press conference in Calcutta on Thursday that the recent increase in steel and pig iron prices had adversely hit exporting units dealing with iron and steel based items. He felt that the present production and distribution policy of steel should be streamlined.

He said that a target had been fixed to export material worth about Rs 223.50 crores in 1980-81 and Rs 305 crores in 1981-82. "But it would not be possible to achieve the target unless a positive announcement is made by the Government immediately to protect the subsisting contracts to the full extent and supply of steel in future be made at international price or the Joint Plant Committee's price, whichever is lower", he said.

Mr R. K. Singh, Executive Director of the Council, felt that the Government should assure a steady supply of material so that exporters could maintain their target. He said that the total requirement in 1980-81 was 848,000 tons. But actual supply of the material was 118,000 tons, till

December, 1980. "If the basic input is available, we shall be able to produce according to our targets", he said. The requirements to meet the target in 1981-82 were estimated at 384,000 tons of steel and 165,000 tons of pig iron, he added.

Mr Jindal said that a workshop on iron and steel based items would be held in Calcutta on February 21. Senior officials of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Steel and other Government departments would participate. He hoped that the workshop would help to draw up strategy for boosting the export of these items for the next five years. India would have to face stiff competition from other nations and this would have to be kept in mind in formulating plans.

He said that against the target of Rs 915 crores for engineering goods, export performance from April to December, 1980, had amounted to Rs 575 crores. There had been a growth rate of more than 40% during the first nine months of 1980-81. Of the target of Rs 915 crores eastern zone's share was more than Rs 300 crores, he said. The major item which was being exported from the eastern region was sanitary castings, he said.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

MERCHANT FLEET GROWTHS--Bombay, February 18--India has added 57,000 gross tonnes to its merchant fleet during 1979-80, bringing the total fleet to 5.9 million tonnes, according to the Lloyds Register of Shipping statistical table for 1980, released recently. The Indian merchant fleet now comprises 79 steamships and 537 motorships with a total dead weight of 9.45 million tonnes. In 1948, India had 151 steam and motorships of 315,308 gross tonnes. The biggest leap in its fleet strength occurred in 1976 when the number of ships rose to 526 from 471 in 1975 and the gross tonnage increased from 3186 million to 5.09 million tonnes. In the Indian fleet, nine oil tankers are less than four years old, 20 tankers less than 10 years old, five between 10 and 15 years old and four less than 20 years old. One tanker is between 20 and 25 years old and three others are over 30 years old. [Excerpts] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Feb 81 p 4]

ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER--Mr T Anjiah who had taken over as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, has resigned his seat in the Rajya Sabha, reports PTI. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Hidayatullah informed the House that he had accepted Mr Anjiah's resignation with effect from Thursday. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Feb 81 p 5]

CONTAINER VESSEL DELIVERED--Bombay, February 19--The state-owned Shipping Corporation of India has taken delivery of a container-oriented cargo vessel, m.v. "Bharatendu," of 15,289 dwt. from the Uljanik Shipyard, Pula, Yugoslavia. Under the command of Capt S. D. Doctor, the vessel proceeded to the U.K. ports on February 17 and will arrive in India in April. The vessel can carry 454 TEU containers. It is equipped with four electro-hydraulic cranes, each capable of lifting 20 tonnes. The SCI has now a cargo liner fleet of 80 vessels out of its total 147 vessels of 4,90 million DWT. Another vessel from the Uljanik Shipyard will be acquired by the SCI in March. By the end of the month, the corporation expects the delivery of m.v. "Prafaulla," a container-oriented vessel built by the Sunderland Shipbuilders of the U.K. The SCI will cross the prestigious five-million dwt mark for any single shipping company in India if the projected acquisition of the first bulk carrier, "Rani Padmini," by the Cochin Shipyard materialises. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Feb 81 p 4]

TAMIL NADU JANATA OFFICIALS--Messrs. Nellai R. Jebamany and P. S. K. Lakshmi pathi Raju have been nominated vice presidents of the Tamil Nadu unit of the Janata Party. Messrs. K. Arumugaswami, A. C. Kamaraj of Madurai and V. Devanathan will be general secretaries, and Mr. T. T. S. Thippiah treasurer, according to Mr P. Mohammed Ismail, party president. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Mar 81 p 12]

HIGHER COAL OUTPUT--Dhanbad, March 8: Coal India is poised for a record coal production in 1980-81. According to a Coal India spokesman, the output in the current financial year is expected to be 99.90 million tonnes against 94.42 million tonnes in 1979-80. The spokesman said the total coal stocks held by the four Coal India subsidiaries were 17.50 million tonnes against 12.94 million tonnes in 1979-80. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 19]

CONGRESS(I) ELECTIONS DELAYED--New Delhi, March 8. The Congress (I) organisational elections, due to be completed by the first week of June, will take another six weeks. As a result, it will not be possible to hold the plenary session of the party before the middle of July. The delay is due to extension of the deadline for enroling members. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Mar 81 p 10]

INCREASED GAS SUPPLY--Agartala, March 9.--The Oil and Natural Gas Commission expects a sixfold rise in the supply of gas, from two million cubic metres at present to 13.6 million cubic metres a day by 1985, according to an ONGC Press release. According to plans 356 exploratory wells and 535 development wells will be dug over the next five years. Four more mobile rigs and about 50 offshore platforms would be added during this period and nearly 400 km of submarine pipelines would be laid, enabling the ONGC to supply over 50 million tons of offshore crude and over 20 million tons of on shore during the next five years. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Mar 81 p 7]

AICC(I) JOINT SECRETARY--New Delhi, March 10: Mr. V. K. Vasudeva Panicker was today appointed joint secretary of the AICC(I). [as published] Mr. Panicker till recently was general secretary and acting president of the Youth Congress (I). [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Mar 81 p 9]

URDU SECOND LANGUAGE--Patna, March 10. Bihar has joined U.P. and West Bengal in according second official language status to Urdu in their respective States for specific purposes. This was announced at a function of the Bihar Urdu Academy by the Chief Minister, Mr. Jagannath Mishra. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Mar 81 p 16]

NEW GOVERNMENT SECRETARIES--New Delhi, March 11. The Union Government announced today the appointment of new Additional Secretaries in three departments. Mr. T. N. Seshan has been promoted Additional Secretary in the Department of Space where he is Joint Secretary. Mr. G. N. Mehra, Joint Secretary, Department of Mines, will be Additional Secretary in the Department of Defence Supplies. Mr. S. Narayanaswamy, Joint Secretary, Department of Petroleum, will go to the Home Ministry as Additional Secretary.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Mar 81 p 9]

INDIA-GDR FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY--A new organisation 'India-GDR, Friendship Society'--was floated at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Cong-I MP Mrs Hamida Habibullah in the Capital on Wednesday. The objective of the organisation--which has yet to be formally set up--is to promote understanding and friendship between India and the GDR. A 22-member organising committee was formed with another Cong-I MP S L Bhatia as convenor. One of the members is Acharya Deepankar, of the All-India Communist Party. The organisation is an 'independent' platform making it distinct from the already existing Indo-GDR Friendship Association, the organisers claimed. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 81 p 7]

GEN NASUTION ON THE DUAL FUNCTIONS OF INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES

Jakarta PRISMA in Indonesian No 12, Dec 80 pp 39-43

[Article by Gen A H Nasution: "The Dual Functions of ABRI: at the Beginning and Now"]

[Text] In discussing the question of national resiliency, we must go thoroughly into the basic factors which determine a system of defense. The Vietnam war proved that a modern armed force which does not constitute a people's force cannot hold out, although it is superior in a technical and quantitative way. The same fate befell the Iranian armed forces. They were not the people's force, although they were modern in terms of organization and equipment, and they collapsed in a short period of time because of the internal opposition of the people.

The existence of stability in government, the economy, and security conditions do not constitute any guarantee. It is enough to know that the people have been sacrificed for those goals. As a consequence the people no longer identify themselves with their government, in terms of their interests, and real national resiliency does not stand up.

There are plenty of historical examples of the success or failure of national defense efforts because of the compactness or lack thereof of spiritual unity between the government, army, and people. In our country the people and army continued an effective level of resiliency after the government was separated from them by the enemy after 19 December 1948. During World War II, Yugoslavia provided another example of this. The people carried on the struggle, although the government and army had been separated from it.

Southeast Asia is an area which proves that strategy is a political question. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam provided an historical example of how a small nation was able to make a big country like France and later America admit defeat, although its military strength in quantitative and qualitative terms was still small. They adopted the correct policy and strategy. Therefore, a defensive system with modern armed forces will never be a success if it is not supported by national resiliency. And national resiliency will not be effective if the people do not identify themselves with their government and armed forces as serving their own interests.

Overall People's Defense

An overall people's defense is not something special which only we possess. Other countries can do the same, whether they are small or large. Its universal character must continue to meet economic and strategical principles, making its burden as light as possible, particularly in peacetime, because justice and social welfare are the highest objectives of independence. Each country follows or applies a system of defense and security which it considers the most effective and efficient, based on its potential and the conditions existing.

Such a system certainly is not the same for all countries. Countries which are industrially developed can lessen the involvement of the people in open warfare, because they can take over and simplify a variety of tasks. Technology can bring into the field conventional forces (regular) and even nuclear weapons in the fullest sense. However, here the human factors continue to be decisive. A developing country like Indonesia more directly involves the people and relies more fully on the people's inner strength and militant attitude.

It is in this context that we should see the question of national defense and resiliency. We must also remember that Southeast Asia, for a long time, has been an area of conflict of the larger countries. Military questions are a continuation of political questions. The question of subversion or interference in internal affairs will continue to be a prominent national security matter. And hot wars are commonly a continued phase of subversion.

Theoretically, every defensive system demands that the external attacker be defeated when he enters the country or especially when he occupies important areas. As a practical matter, this means that there must be armed forces whose technical level and professionalism are sufficiently high. This question is outside our scope.

Therefore, recalling further that subversion is a threat to which attention must always be paid, a strong system of Overall People's Defense and Security [HANKAMRATA] is an absolute need for us. However, a system of people's defense is only strategic-defensive in character, while victory can only be achieved through the strategic-offensive, which can only be undertaken by conventional armed forces. Nevertheless, the strategic-defensive will not succeed without a strategic-offensive capability.

In looking over all of this, the essential feature is the existence of a high level Overall People's Defense and Security system. Within the limits of national capacities a maximum effort needs to be made to develop conventional military capabilities. For the last 10 years, in my view, we haven't paid enough attention to this. For that reason we have a lot of catching up to do in this area. However, in making this effort we should not forget that all of that will not be enough if it is not supported by the people as a whole. In this connection the question is: how far do the people feel that their government and armed forces serve the interests of all of them. This is a political question, and no longer a technical matter.

The Dual Functions of ABRI

First of all we need to review what is meant by the dual functions of ABRI and the principles which are their foundation. It is only after that, that we will consider how far their implementation extends. After that we will re-formulate how they should be.

When we faced the Dutch with their technically superior armed forces, we were only able to face them with a "total people's defense" (that was the term at the time), with the Indonesian National Army (TNI) as its nucleus. During the first clash with the Dutch (1947-1948), the first function of the TNI was the "battle function," and the second function was the "territorial function," whose purpose was to support the people's defense and struggle. The second function was carried out by a territorial organization, with territorial cadres.

In the second clash with the Dutch we had improved things. After 1950, we reduced the second function. However, with the spread of operations to restore security--a consequence of expanding rebellion and subversion--the second function reemerged and expanded in extent. Indeed, after the 30 September 1965 incident it became dominant in the life of the country, and it became involved in all aspects of community life. In my own view, indeed, it has become the backbone of the policy of the government.

During my period of service as Army chief of staff, I tried to prepare a basic concept in order to provide a basic direction to the two functions, in the framework of our national life. At that time political and security developments had stimulated new forms of the territorial function, that is, as a function of regional and community development. There also developed the concept of a "civic mission" [operasi karya] and "civic mission assignments" (the task plus civilian or military officials).

We fought for the concept in the framework of "returning to the Constitution of 1945." Paragraph 2 of the Constitution of 1945 also bestows a position and a political function to functional groups, that is, the military, workers, farmers, and others, as in the concept of President Soekarno at the time. The Constitution of 1945 includes a spirit of family.

The concept was present in the Army chief of staff's speech on 11 November 1958 at the Military Academy in Magelang, which I delivered without a prepared text. The contents of the speech--thinking out loud [hardopdenken]--were as follows: The TNI position is not exclusively as a civilian instrument, as in Western countries, and neither is it like that of military regimes which hold state power. It is a social force, a people's force, shoulder to shoulder with other people's forces.

This thought was in the spirit of family, as intended by the Constitution of 1945. It differed from an individualistic character on the one hand and a totalitarian character on the other, as they are known in the Western and Eastern worlds. The spirit of family includes an attitude of harmony.

Prof Djokosutono, as our foremost scholar of constitutional law at the time, gave the title, "The TNI Middle Way" to my formulation.

Going Beyond the "Middle Way"

The epilogue of the 30 September 1965 incident brought changes which went beyond the "middle way" described above, both at the political level as well as in technical ways. I continue to be convinced that this needs to be corrected, because it doesn't fit in, either with the spirit or family contained in the Pancasila and the Constitution of 1945 or especially with the basic concept of "sovereignty in the hands of the people," which is contained in Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of 1945. If we do not correct it, we will open the way for the development of a state and military identity which are different from what we sought and which we have upheld since 1945. For that reason, in my last annual report delivered at the Staff and Command School (1969) I advanced the motto: the 1970's need to continue purifying the meaning and the experience of the dual functions. This is because many elements of change and of an emergency nature have entered into our life.

The elements of change, among other things, involve numerous assignments of the TNI to civilian/political functions and other, similar duties, because they are needed for the time being. This is also the case with the appointment of TNI personnel as representatives of the armed forces and people in democratic organizations and so forth. In the original concept, if TNI members entered a legislative body, it should be through general elections. The proposal of the Army chief of staff to return to the Constitution of 1945 also involved general elections on the district system or a system of electing people, not choosing symbols with lists attached. However, the entry of TNI personnel into parliament was as delegates of a group according to Paragraph 2 of the Constitution of 1945, that is, they represented the TNI as a group.

The emergency elements resulted from the fact that the commander of the Command for the Operation of Restoring Security and Order (PANGKOPKAMTIB) at the time, as the leader of the Army, of course naturally exercised his powers through the Army structure which he had under him. This practice was later strengthened with extraordinary powers under the 11 March Order and subsequently by the powers of the chief of government. As matters have turned out, due to our national development, on a day to day basis the people are more acquainted with the dual functions, particularly in practice from the aspects of change and emergency developments.

I have recalled above that there has been a conceptual change. The First Army Seminar (during the period in office of General Achmad Yani) placed the military and social functions beside each other. In fact, in the original concept it was in terms of "construction," that is, the TNI was composed first of the people, and then on that basis it had a military function. Later, during the period of the New Order, the original functional concept--as contributing to the development of the country--became the offspring of civic mission assignments [kekaryaan]. In the previous context it was the function of national development which gave birth to civic mission assignments.

We need to remember that at the time the development of the armed forces was not yet proceeding as intended by Paragraph 30 of the Constitution of 1945, in the sense of a people's army or in the sense intended in the historic speech of Vice President Hatta to the Working Group of the Central Indonesian National Committee [BP - KNIP] in February, 1948. At the time we couldn't do all of that because it

was a period of war and confrontation. However, now, during a period of development and with the determination to apply the Constitution of 1945 in a complete and responsible way, we should return everything to its constitutional proportions.

For an improved understanding and experience of the dual functions of the armed forces, as stated in the motto in my last annual speech at the Staff and Command School in 1969, and to bring an end to the addition of transitional and emergency elements, as well as to implement the Constitution of 1945 in a proper and responsible way, I would list three essential things to do:

- 1) The administration of the political function of the armed forces must be based on Paragraph 2 of the Constitution of 1945, as a group which sends delegates to parliament.
- 2) The administration of the security function within the country must be based on Paragraph 12 of the Constitution of 1945 (the state of danger).
- 3) The development of the armed forces must be along the lines of a people's army based on application of Paragraph 30 of the Constitution of 1945. This will especially be the case during the period of the generational change in leadership. At this time this fundamental task particularly needs to be done.

This is what I think should be the policy or regulations which we need to apply to place the role of the armed forces where it should be in implementing state power. This is an integral part of arranging the entire life of the state in applying the Constitution of 1945 in a proper and responsible way.

In a constitutional sense it should be the next meeting of the GBHN which should sketch out this structure, because in fact the existence of a better national life is very much determined by the existence of a healthy political system. We are convinced that a proper political system, in accordance with the Constitution of 1945, can provide us with the structure hoped for.

For the future we should bring an end to extra-constitutional powers and bodies, particularly for matters for which the Constitution itself contains binding, written provisions. If we do not carry out these improvements, the path will be open to disharmony between the armed forces and other social groups, including the people as a whole. This would have a negative impact on relations between the armed forces and the people, and negative also for our national resilience and defense.

If the meaning and experience of civic mission assignments are cleansed of emergency and transitional elements, as I suggested in the speech at the Staff and Command School in 1969, the volume of such assignments will decline.

We will have a people's army if Paragraph 30 of the Constitution of 1945 is applied in a consistent way, in accordance with the speech of Vice President Hatta before the Working Group of the KNIP, and also as stated by Gen Oerip Sumohardjo in his first press conference at the time of the formation of the TKR [People's Security Army]. He said, "Our army consists of the 70 million people of Indonesia. In this context, therefore, its core, or the professional army, is not large in a proportional sense." In that way, on the whole, issues involving civilian-military

relations, and especially those involving civic mission assignments, will no longer be as widely noted as is that situation now, with a de facto, professional army system.

Civil Order

If the state of emergency is ended, which, in a material sense, is now in effect through the extra-constitutional powers of the commander of the Security and Order Command [KOPKAMTIB] and the Special Branch [LAKSUSDA], and the Constitution of 1945 is applied in a proper and responsible fashion, we will return to a situation of civil order, so that the direct and widespread involvement of the armed forces in community security and order questions, as is the case now, will no longer be necessary. In this connection if the civil government at a given time feels it is unable to handle the situation, it can be given what is called military help. When the situation still cannot be brought under control, Paragraph 12 of the Constitution of 1945 can be placed in effect, but on the basis of law approved by the legislative branch, in which rights, sanctions, and limits of authority are clear.

If the political role of the armed forces is administered with further reference to Paragraph 2 of the Constitution of 1945, the primary political role will be performed in parliament, and not in day to day politics. Since I became general chairman of the MPRS recently, I have urged that every 5 years and in a dynamic way the MPR should determine the main lines for the implementation of the civil mission assignments of the armed forces. In that way, finally, it is the people who will exercise sovereignty.

Indeed, there are numerous differences of opinion regarding the position and role of the armed forces in the functioning of the state. However, if we faced this question, firmly standing on the principles of the Constitution of 1945, I am convinced that the question of the dual functions could be resolved in a responsible way, that is, based on the Constitution.

For that reason the legitimization of the role of the armed forces in the future will not be exclusively a matter for history, but rather for the Constitution itself, and the character and extent of this role will be a dynamic question which is mentioned in the declaratory section of the Constitution of 1945, that is, regarding the need for the MPR to hold a GBHN session once every 5 years, whose implementation will be subject to control by the people, through the parliament which the people have elected.

5170
CSO: 8127/0800

FOUR JURISTS PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST

Three Jakarta Judges Under House Arrest

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 2 Feb 81 p 1

[Excerpts] Three judges assigned to the Central Jakarta State Court have been under house arrest since 30 January. Dr H G is included among the three judges affected by the security order, although on 1 January he was pardoned by the minister of justice.

According to a KOMPAS source, Dr H G, Dr J Z L, and Dr H I A have been subjected to house arrest for an indefinite period of time. Apart from the three judges, Minister of Justice Dr Moedjono on the same date also ordered the house arrest of Supreme Court Justice Dr H M S.

Another KOMPAS source alleged that the basis for the house arrest of the four judges is information developed in the investigation by the Central Security Operations Team.

A court source stated that the security operation carried out by the Central Security Operations Team recently was based on a case of swindling and smuggling of imitation gold valued at about Rp 300 million.

With the purpose of inquiring into the status of the case Mrs M S contacted a judge, Dr H G. At the meeting Judge H G expressed his ability to help resolve the case of Mrs M S.

He reportedly told the accused that the case could be dismissed or a light sentence handed down or even that it could be declared a civil case, for a round sum of Rp 50 million. After this there was some bargaining over the sum to be paid. For settlement of the case Mrs M S would hand over Rp 25 million in installments.

At the end of November, 1980, two officials from the Central Security Operations Team caught Dr H G red-handed after he received Rp 10 million (consisting of Rp 1.0 million in cash and Rp 9.0 million in a draft on the Chase Manhattan Bank) from Mrs M S.

After receiving a report on the investigation conducted by the Central Security Operations Team Minister of Justice Dr Moedjono immediately suspended Dr H G from

his duties. A few days later, for the purpose of more detailed investigation, the Central Security Operations Team advised the minister of justice to return Dr H G to active duty. Following this advice, the minister returned Dr H G to active duty on 1 January.

Returning Dr H G to active duty was apparently intended to help carry out a security operation throughout the court.

In a meeting with journalists at the Ministry of Justice, both the minister of justice and the commander of the Security and Order Command [PANGKOPKAMTIB], who is also chairman of the Central Security Operations Team, hinted that there is a continuing security investigation going on in the courts, especially at the Central Jakarta State Court. The day after the meeting with journalists, H G, J Z L, H I A, and H M S were assigned to house arrest by the minister of justice.

Comment by Public Figures

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesia 3 Feb 81 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] The secretary of the Functional Development Fraction in Parliament, Dr Sarwono Kusumaatmadja, told KOMPAS on Monday [2 February], in connection with the action by Minister of Justice Moedjono in ordering house arrest for three judges and a Supreme Court justice, "The action by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Central Security Operations Team is 'shock treatment,' but it can't go on like this. Finally, it will be a matter for the courts themselves to maintain their own integrity and independence." He also thought that such drastic action was connected to the role of the new inspector general of the Ministry of Justice, Dr Kamil Kamka. The previous inspector general was a member of Parliament (deputy chairman of Committee 1) from the Functional Development Fraction. Indeed, he was known as a clear-thinking representative of the people.

The experienced lawyer, Yap Thiam Hien, asked by KOMPAS about this case, said, "The action taken is a sign or proof that the government has sincerity and good will in cleaning up a dirty mess, which reflects credibility and integrity on the part of those who uphold law and justice." The people now have seen the evidence and must appreciate the action of the government, he said. If the government allowed the situation to continue, not only would justice be damaged, but so would the country itself. In this connection justice is the last bastion for the protection of the people and of those who seek righteousness. He warned that the irregularities committed up to now not only involved individual judges who played a role in the matter. They also involved the police, the public prosecutor, and even defense lawyers. "We all hope that this will be gone into thoroughly," said Yap. "For all of that the government indeed needs strong evidence, as it is not enough just to make charges. For a long time we have been hoping for firm action by the government to clear up the courts in this country."

Without identifying the defense attorney or prosecutor who has been involved in the case of irregularities, Yap Thiam Hien hoped that the government will not take half-hearted action. Without sincerity, determination, and good judgment, which must be applied in a responsible way, we will not be able to break through

the strong walls set up by the "Mafia of the courts." Yap said that the interests of the public and of the nation must be given priority. The interests of a corps of employees, of a group, or of individuals must not be considered first. Those who have been assigned to house arrest are just one group of "friends," but there are still many others besides them who are causing the authority of the courts to decrease with time. That is why we want the government to straighten things out in a thorough way.

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CSO: 4213

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON INDONESIAN PERSONALITIES

[Unless otherwise noted, the following information on Indonesian personalities has been extracted from Indonesian language sources published in Jakarta.]

POLICE BRIG GEN R NOERJONO--The post of governor of the police section of AKABRI on 6 January was transferred from Police Brig Gen Wik Djatmika to Police Brig Gen R Noerjono. The transfer of command ceremony took place in the Manunggal building of the police section of AKABRI in Semarang in the presence of the commanding general of AKABRI, Maj Gen Henuhili. [Excerpt] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 11 Feb 81 p 6]

COL SAMSUDDIN--The post of chief of staff of Military Region XVII/Cenderawasih in Jayapura was transferred from the former incumbent, Col John Tatipata, to his replacement, Col Samsuddin, on 1 February. The transfer of office was witnessed by the staff of Military Region XVII/Cenderawasih and the chiefs of staff of other elements of the armed forces in the area. Prior to this assignment Col Samsuddin was commander of Local Military Command [KOREM] 172 in Abepura, Jayapura. Not long ago he graduated from training at a war college in the United States. [Excerpt] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 12 Feb 81 p 6]

DR LOEMIADJI POERBODININGRAT--PT Caltex Indonesia has announced the appointment of Dr Loemriadji Poerbodiningrat as deputy managing director of the company, effective 1 February 1981. He replaces A B Salaki, who has retired. Loemriadji was born in Yogyakarta on 22 May 1930 and began to work at Caltex on 10 April 1958 as an assistant petroleum engineer immediately after obtaining his degree as an engineer on graduation from the Faculty of Technology of the University of Indonesia (now the Bandung Institute of Technology). Since then he has successively served as a petroleum engineer (drilling), beginning in May, 1959; senior petroleum engineer (May, 1965); district petroleum engineer in Minas (August, 1966); superintendent of production in Minas (June, 1969); superintendent of production in Bangko (January, 1972); district superintendent in Minas (September, 1976); assistant manager of production and engineering (September, 1978); and most recently as manager of the production support function (April, 1979). In the course of his career development Loemriadji worked for two years for Amoseas Petroleum Ltd in New York and went through a program of training overseas in the fields of production technique and petroleum affairs (December, 1960, to May, 1961). He also attended a course in production management (January, 1971, to January, 1972). He and his wife, Wiana Kartanegara, have one daughter and three sons. [Text] [Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 6 Feb 81 p 11]

MOHAMMAD DONDAN--Mohammad Bondan, a pioneer of Indonesian independence, died on Friday [6 February] at Bendungan Hilir Naval Hospital, aged 70, after an illness that lasted for some time. Mohammad Bondan was exiled by the Dutch to Boven Digoel [now Irian Jaya], together with Mohammad Hatta and Sutan Sjahrir. He was known as a leader of the PNI educational association during the pre-World War II period. During the Japanese occupation of Indonesia, as was the case with all of the internees, he was taken by the Dutch to Australia and did not return to Indonesia until after independence was proclaimed. His wife, Molly Bondan, an Australian woman, returned with him to Indonesia and fought on the side of the Indonesian Republic against the Dutch. As this item goes to press, there is no information as to where Mohammad Bondan will be buried. Mohammad Bondan was born in Cirebon on 15 January 1910. [Text] [Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 7 Feb 81 p 12]

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CSO: 4213

PAPER MILL CONSTRUCTION IN EAST KALIMANTAN, CENTRAL JAVA

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 6 Feb 81 p 11

[Article: "Finland to Assist in Construction of Paper Mills"]

[Excerpts] To satisfy paper requirements in Indonesia, especially for newsprint, Finland is cooperating with several other countries at present in preparing plans for the construction of two paper mills in Indonesia.

The Finnish ambassador to Indonesia, Tuure Mentula, in a meeting with the deputy regional secretary for North Sulawesi, Dr W J F Pratasik, in Manado on Thursday [5 February] stated that the two factories will be constructed in East Kalimantan and Central Java, respectively.

The financing will be arranged by several countries, while Finland will provide the machinery. The ambassador did not state which countries will cooperate in the construction of the factories.

Apart from the paper factories, Finland also intends to help Indonesia in the construction of village electrical systems, as well as in other areas of the wood industry.

The ambassador expressed concern over the condition of the forests in Indonesia, which is becoming increasingly critical. However, he praised the determination of the Indonesian government which, through its reforestation program, is trying very hard to deal with the problem.

On Friday [6 February], in accordance with previous arrangements, prior to leaving Manado, Ambassador Tuure Mentula will meet with the chief of the trade service of North Sulawesi in order to get a picture of the possibility for cooperation in the trade field.

5170
CSO: 4213

INDONESIA TO FINANCE DUMAI HYDROCRACKER

Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 11 Feb 81 p 11

[Article: "Indonesia Itself to Finance the Dumai Hydrocracker"]

[Text] The Indonesian government itself will finance construction of the Dumai hydrocracker oil refinery. Implementation of the project and its management will be turned over fully to Pertamina.

Originally, the refinery project, which will reprocess oil residues, was to be constructed on the basis of a joint venture between Pertamina and foreign partners. This was stated by Minister for Mining and Energy Subroto to Committee VI of Parliament in a working meeting in Senayan on Tuesday [10 February].

"Previously, we thought of a joint venture because we did not yet have enough capital to construct a refinery of that kind. However, with the increase in the income of the government we decided that a joint venture was no longer needed, and that we would finance it ourselves," said Subroto, answering a question from a member of the committee, H Anwar Nurris.

The minister stated that Pertamina would not be permitted to seek funds on its own to finance the refinery project. All funds required will be provided by the government. In addition to rupiah funds the government also will provide funds in the form of foreign exchange, as well as other foreign exchange obtained from government to government loans and loans from the international capital market. The Spanish and Austrian governments have expressed their readiness to extend loans based on government to government agreements. Meanwhile, several foreign banks will form a consortium or syndicate to provide credit to the Indonesian government for the financing of the Dumai project.

"This will be more advantageous than if Pertamina itself sought a loan in the international capital market," Subroto said.

Subroto said that, as originally planned, the Spanish firm, "Tecnicas Reunidas y Centunion" (TRC), will act as prime contractor in the construction of the hydro-cracker refinery. At present the construction contract, which will be in the form of a "lump sum plus fee," is being discussed.

The concept of an agreement with the potential contractor was advanced by the Indonesian side. The minister said, "This is a step forward for us in the construction of big projects, because up to now the basic concept has always been put forward by the foreign party."

To assist in supervising the implementation of the project, Pertamina has appointed the consulting firm, Brown and Company, from the United States.

At present ground preparation for the high technology refinery, located near the "Putri Tujuh" [Seven Sisters] refinery in Dumai, is going forward. The process engineering by the UOP firm (of the United States) has been completed, and a list of materials which must be purchased (vendor list) has been approved by Pertamina and TRC.

In answer to a question from the committee, Subroto declared that the cost figure for the Dumai project of \$950 million was an estimate. "We will only be able to develop a definite figure when the detailed engineering studies have been completed," he said.

Indonesian Firms to Be Invited to Participate

Subroto said that the government is giving instructions to Pertamina to ensure that it invites Indonesian firms to participate in the big projects which it handles. Since in general the capital and technological capacities of the Indonesian firms are still limited, it is hoped that they can form a consortium to increase their capabilities. For that reason several Pertamina subsidiaries will have their structures changed so that they can "include" other Indonesian firms.

P T Purna Bina Indonesia, which up to now has been a joint venture of Pertamina and the Bechtel Corporation, will have its "capacity" increased with the addition of P T Barata, Teknik Umum, Nindya Karya, and other firms. Meanwhile, P T Pertafeniki will be expanded by the addition of P T Mega Elektro, P T Pembangunan Jaya, and so forth.

Indonesia has an interest in having a hydrocracker refinery so that it can reprocess LSWR residues into fuel oil, particularly the "middle distillate" types (kerosene, solar oil, diesel fuel) which are very much needed within the country.

Meanwhile, LSWR (low sulphur waxy residues), the residue from processing Minas crude oil, is being produced in quantity by the "Putri Tujuh" refinery. Under normal circumstances, this type of residue is usually sold abroad. However, often LSWR cannot be exported, to the extent that it is an obstacle to the efficient operation of the "Putri Tujuh" refinery because it accumulates in the storage tanks.

5170
CSO: 4213

NEPALI CONGRESS LEADERS SPEAK AT PUBLIC MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Kathmandu, March 7 (PTI)

Acting president of the banned Nepali Congress Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has said that it was unlikely that his party would participate in the forthcoming general elections to Rashtriya Panchayat, the Kingdom's highest legislature.

He told a public meeting at Malangwa in eastern Nepal earlier this week, that a final decision would, however, be taken only after discussions with all the party workers.

Leader of Nepali Congress B P Koirala will be holding five regional meetings to this end, he said.

Mr Koirala who also addressed the meeting was reported as saying that the Government was making false propaganda and resorting to intimidation and threats to prevent people from listening to him. "Government clearly wants that you should not hear about democracy and other new things", Mr Koirala was reported to have said at the meeting.

The MOTHERLAND, an English daily today, referred to Mr Koirala's charges in an editorial entitled "improper act", and said, it deserved more than scant attention.

"Such an act will give further ground to the apprehension already expressed by certain quarters that the people will not be allowed to exercise their right of free choice in the forthcoming elections", the daily said.

Mr Koirala is reported to have said that the new constitution was "undemocratic" as there was no place for peasants who constituted 90 per cent of the population.

Mr Krishna Prasad Bhattarai reportedly said that to form a Government, the party would have to win 84 "seats out of 140".

"A legislature elected through adult franchise must have sovereign powers which is not done by the present constitution, hence we oppose the system, he said.

"We will act as an opposition group in the course of the elections", he added.
[as published]

Another leader of Nepali Congress, Mr Parashu Narayan Chowdhury is reported to have said that the new constitution is a "one sided document with heavy bias towards the Panchayat system".

Mr Chowdhury also said as the ruling side controls administrative machinery in addition to organisation power and financial resources "there is very little prospect of our victory in the elections even though the majority of the people are with us".

C80: 4220

BRIEFS

LAND TENURE ORDINANCE--Kathmandu, March 11.--A new Ordinance aimed at increasing security of land tenure for small farmers was promulgated by King Birendra yesterday, it was officially announced, reports AFP. The official announcement said that under the Land Act, Third Amendment Ordinance a farmer tilling the land to produce at least a major crop in a year in the capacity of a tenant would be entitled to tenancy rights even if he cannot produce the document of understanding between himself and the landowners, or a receipt showing he has paid land rent. Under the original Land Reform Act, promulgated by King Mahendra in 1961-1962, tenancy went to those who tilled the land only after they had worked the land for a full year and could produce proof of the fact. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Mar 81 p 5]

CSO: 4220

ALL-TIME HIGH TRADE DEFICIT

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 17: With 2,376 million dollars in the red, Pakistan's external trade deficit recorded an all-time high in 1979-80 as the gap expanded by 409 million dollars during the year.

According to figures published in "Pakistan Basic Facts 1979-80", the trade gap expand with accelerated speed during the years between 1976-77 and 1979-80. While the deficit shrank by 144.1 million dollars in 1975-76, it expanded at an average rate of 397 million dollars during the three years ending 1979-80.

Pakistan's external trade balance which continued to remain

unfavourable since 1951-52 recorded a surplus in 1972-73 following devaluation of Pakistani rupee in May 1972. But in 1974-75 the trade gap expanded by 739.5 million dollars as world oil prices jumped up steeply after the Ramazan War.

During 1979-80 the terms of trade fell significantly to 83.9 from 87.5 in 1978-79 reflecting a decline of 4.1 per cent. The decline is attributed to an increase of 22.4 per cent in import unit value index although, export unit value index also rose by 17.4 per cent during 1979-80.

During the year imports swelled to 4740.3 million dollars, compared with 3675.6 million dollars during the preceding year showing an increase of 29 per cent over 1978-79 and 68.7 per cent over 1977-78. Wheat, P.O.L, edible oil, tea, fertilizers, milk food for infants and agriculture tractors were the main items of imports in 1979-80, accounting for 40.6 per cent of total imports.

Exports during the year increased by 38.3 per cent over the exports recorded in 1978-79. Major items contributing towards increase in exports were rice, raw cotton, cotton

cloth, cotton yarn, fish and fish preparations, carpets, jugs and mats and petroleum products with raw cotton recording the highest increase followed by petroleum products.

Export of primary commodities increased by 79.7 per cent while manufactured goods export increased by only 26 per cent with the share of the latter in the total exports declining to 43 per cent from 47.1 per cent in 1978-79. The share of capital goods in total imports was 35.5 per cent while the remaining imports consisted of consumer goods and raw materials.

CSO: 4220

RISE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Mar 81 p 1

(Text)

KARACHI, March 15: Pakistan's approved foreign exchange has increased by Rs. 1209 million in the third quarter of the current fiscal year.

According to weekly statement of affairs issued by the State Bank, approved foreign exchange stood at 4,049 million on March 5, 1981 against the figure of Rs. 2,840 million as on Dec. 25, 1980.

During the corresponding period the balances held abroad including cash and short term securities, however, declined marginally from Rs. 1,680 million to Rs. 1,666 million.

The IMF Extended Credit Facility has helped to augment the foreign exchange reserve. During January this year Pakistan drew 99 million SDRS (128.7 million dollars) and is expected to make the next purchase of 187 SDRS

shortly.

According to official figures available here trade gap during the first half of the current fiscal year has doubled. The recent liberalisation of imports is expected to further strengthen this trend.

Imports increased from Rs. 20,077 million during July-Dec. 1979 to Rs. 26,126 million during corresponding period of 1980. Exports rose from Rs. 9,869 to Rs. 12,097 million.

Exports during the current fiscal year is expected to in the neighbourhood of 2.5 billion dollar against imports officially estimated at 3 billion dollars.

Home remittances are expected to touch the 2 billion dollar mark this year against 1.7 billion dollar of last year.

However, growing debt liabilities are causing great strains on the balance of payments position.

CSO: 4220

GENERATION CAPACITY TO INCREASE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Mar 81 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, March 9. The generation capacity of the Kotri Thermal Power Plant, near Hyderabad, will be increased by 50 megawatts by the middle of May when the Rs. 210 million extension project is completed, it is reliably learnt here.

The extension scheme is being implemented by WAPDA with the help of Japanese suppliers and erectors who are busy installing the two gas-turbines of 25 megawatts each.

The Japanese have a target date to commission the first machine by April 15, and the second machine by May and according to WAPDA

engineers.

On commissioning of the 50 megawatts units now under installation, it will have a total capacity of 130 megawatts and Kotri Power House will be among the five biggest thermal units in the WAPDA system.

The scheme of installation of 50 megawatts gas turbines at Kotri was developed by WAPDA's Power Engineers to meet the fast growing power demand of Hyderabad region, which has a limited generating capacity as compared to the demand.

The present total installed

capacity of the existing generating units at Hyderabad Steam Power House and Kotri power station is 123 megawatts. The effective capability of these units however, is only 96 megawatts. Against this capacity, the present demand of the area is estimated to be at least 125 megawatts.

Since the demand for power is much more than the capability of the local power stations, the balance of the requirement is drawn from Guddu Thermal Power Station through the existing 132 KV double circuit transmission line or by import from Karachi.—PPN

CSO: 4220

CEMENT PRODUCTION, GAS USE TO RISE

Karachi PROGRESS in English Mar 81 p 3

[Text]

PRODUCTION capacity of the cement industry in the country is being raised to some 7.38 million tonnes per annum in the next few years. This is planned to be done by the expansion of the projects in operation and by setting up of new plants both in the public and private sectors.

Cement is amongst the major industrial consumers of natural gas in Pakistan, accounting for some 13 percent of the total gas production. With the increase in the production of cement, gas offtake will also go up.

The present installed capacity of the ten cement plants, all in the public sector, is some 3.75 million tonnes per annum. With the completion and commissioning of the Mustehkam cement (expansion) project, now underway, the total installed capacity would go upto 4.05 million tonnes per annum.

Production of cement in the country during 1979-80 was about 3.3 million tonnes as compared to about 3.023 million tonnes in 1978-79.

The local demand for cement is higher than the country's production. The demand is expected to rise further and with that in view, a comprehensive programme of expansion has been drawn up. According to an estimate, the demand for cement in 1982-83 would be 6.0 million tonnes. To produce six million tonnes, the capacity required at 90 percent utilisation should be 6.7 million tonnes.

To raise the desired capacity work is reported to have commenced on four public sector projects. These are the (a) Pak-Iran Cement Project, Darwaza in District Kalat; (b) Kohat Cement Project; (c) Dandot Cement Project and the (d) Thatta Cement Project. Of these the first three plants will have a production capacity of 0.3 million tonnes each and that at Thatta 0.33 million tonnes. With the completion of these projects in the Plan period the installed capacity of cement in the country will rise to 5.28 million tonnes as against the demand of six million tonnes.

In addition to the above plants, another plant of 0.6 million tonnes capacity is planned to be set up in the public sector at Dera Ghazi Khan.

Besides the public sector projects, five plants of 0.3 million tonnes each are being set up in the private sector. The permission for the setting of these plants is reported to have been given by the Government. In addition the Government is also reported to have approved foreign exchange loans of 100 million French francs each to three projects out of the French protocol credits which will be utilised by these plants for the import of plant and machinery from abroad.

When all these plants are set up as planned the production capacity of cement in the country will rise to about 7.38 million tonnes per annum.

Gas offtakes by the cement industry will also rise with the growth of production capacity. Cement industry consumed 25,770 million cubic feet of natural gas, almost all from PPL's Sui field, in 1979-80 compared to 24,256 million cubic feet of gas in 1978-79. It is estimated that when production capacity rises to the planned target of 7.38 million tonnes gas offtakes by the cement industry will be in the range of approximately 50,000 million cubic feet per annum.

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

HYDROGAS-POWERED VEHICLES--President Marcos has directed Brig Gen (Pedro Dumo), general manager of the National Electrification Administration, to conduct further test runs of hydrogas-powered vehicles. The chief executive noted that hydrogas-powered vehicles will utilize indigenous waste materials, thereby saving millions of pesos needed to pay for oil imports. The chief executive further directed General (Dumo) to recommend to coconut farmers to collect and convert all coconut shells into charcoal. The president gave this instruction to General (Dumo) when the NEA general manager called to report on the rural electrification program. [Text] [HK210516 Baguio Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation in English 0400 GMT 21 Mar 81]

HYDROGAS MACHINE PRODUCTION--President Marcos has authorized the release of 10 million pesos to fund the large-scale production of a machine that produces hydrogas from charcoal. The machine, known as gasifier, can run jeepneys and irrigation systems and can generate electricity for rural areas. As you know, the gas now in the market still largely comes from oil. Earlier, President Marcos and the first lady were shown the latest models of the machine, vastly improved versions of those they saw 1 month ago. The president tried out the vehicle with the first lady as his passenger. The effectiveness of hydrogas compares with that of gasoline, but researchers say hydrogas should come cheaper in the long run. [Text] [HK220416 Manila FEBC in English 0400 GMT 22 Mar 81]

CSO: 4220

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM ENCOUNTERS SNAGS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Feb 81 p 6

[Text] Colombo, February 18: Sri Lanka's family planning programme, sponsored by the United National Party government, has encountered two snags: opposition by the Buddhist clergy and shortage of funds.

Since mid-1980, an inducement of Rs 500 has been offered by the state to persons to undergo sterilisation. A sum of Rs 30 million was allocated for the purpose. The offer was confined to men over 50 and women over 45.

According to the ministry of plan implementation, which monitors the programme, there has been a rapid increase in the number of operations. There were reports that even some bachelors availed themselves of the offer for purely monetary benefit.

At the same time, the increase in sterilisations has begun to worry the Buddhist clergy, who fear that the Sinhalese Buddhists, who now constitute 65 per cent of the estimated 14.8 million population, would ultimately be reduced to a minority. They have made representations to the government to pass a law making it compulsory for people of all communities to undergo sterilisation after a certain age and after they have had a fixed number of children.

The government has now decided to confine the programme to those who are married and have at least two children.

Besides the ruling party, the two major opposition parties, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Tamil United Liberation Front, have publicly committed themselves to support family planning as a solution to Sri Lanka's population problem.

CSO: 4220

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS PULO OFFICIAL ON DEVELOPMENTS

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Feb 81 p 13

[Interview with Kabir Abd Al-Rahman, Pattani United Liberation Organization's Secretary General, by Al-Qabas Correspondent in Damascus, Khalil Al-Taqi: "A talk with the leader of the Islamic Revolution in Pattani on the Thai Occupation and its terrorist practices"; date of interview not given]

[Text] The Pattani province, whose area is 16 thousand square miles, is considered to be one of the oldest Islamic kingdoms in the Malayan Peninsula. Pattani had enjoyed full sovereignty, before the Kingdom of Thailand annexed it in 1786 and made it a subordinate state which continued to pay taxes to Bangkok until 1902. In this same year it was forcibly made a part of Thailand.

Many attempts have been made, especially since 1948, to find a peaceful solution to the issue of the Pattani Muslim people and to enable them to win their independence from the Thai occupation, whose forces brutally repressed all these attempts.

During his visit to Syria, Kabir Abd Al-Rahman, Secretary General of the Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO), told Al-Qabas:

The Pattani province is located in the southern part of Thailand, on the border with Malaysia. It is surrounded by Thailand to the north, Malaysia to the south, the Gulf of Siam to the east and the Andaman Sea to the west. The province, which occupies an area of 26 thousand kilometers, has a population of 4 million, in addition to 2.5 million scattered in various parts of Thailand.

The Muslim population constitutes 80 percent of the 4 million Pattanis. The rest of the population are strangers brought in and settled in the province by the Thai authorities in an attempt to reduce the percentage of the Islamic Malayan majority in the southern part of the country. Thai government authorities claim that according to the 1975 survey, the population of the province is 1.07 million, of which Muslims constitute 803,250--nearly 75 percent. This is completely false and is aimed at minimizing the importance of the Malayan Pattanis.

Development of the Issue

Briefing Al-Qabas on the current developments of the Pattani issue and the responsibilities of PULO, Abd Al-Rahman said:

The Pattani issue, that of the land and the people, rapidly developed and entered a critical and serious stage throughout the year 1980. By "developments," I mean the internal ones. Many aspects of the problem have emerged especially with the advancement of the level of struggle between us and the Thai colonization and its allies.

The occupation authorities have always affirmed their hold on the Pattani land. They escalated their brutal military campaigns against the Pattani citizens and considered the Pattani issue as one of destiny for the Thai people, especially after the discovery of oil in Pattani, which made clear the emerging aspects of conflict between Thailand and Malaysia on the Pattani territory. For us, as the legitimate owners of the land, these conflicts constitute a new danger: the Pattani issue may fall between the Thai and Malaysian jaws.

As a matter of fact, the Pattani people's issue is gaining importance in world public opinion, despite differences of opinion over the essence of the Pattani issue. The PULO is acting as organizer and leader in the internal and external arenas, especially after the escalation of the armed struggle between our people and the Thai occupiers. This struggle has reached an advanced stage as a result of the changes in the ruling regimes, the last of which is the current regime of Gen Prem Tinsulanonda. This development in the struggle has placed us in a weak position against the enemy. From the early moments of his coming to power at the head of the military regime, Gen Prem Tinsulanonda announced that he will solve the Pattani issue militarily and will keep the PULO under his foot as long as he rules.

Huge Forces to Strike the Revolution

Recently, thus, Prem dispatched to Pattani massive forces with very sophisticated weapons. General Prem himself admitted that this is the first time that such huge forces are dispatched to the South--to occupied Pattani.

Abd Al-Rahman adds: our reports from Pattani have confirmed that the Thai guerrilla members have been stationed in several districts and that General Prem himself is leading the annihilation war against our revolutionaries and innocent citizens.

As a matter of fact, there has been a change in internal and external colonial political measures against the Pattani Revolution. During the last 3 months, the fascist General Prem summoned the leading officials in occupied Pattani, both civilian and military, to Bangkok and briefed them on three important means his regime is implementing in its war against the rebelling Pattani people:

1. Forbidding local newspapers from mentioning the name of the PULO, because merely mentioning its name means, according to General Prem, recognition of the organization; and stressing the importance of misrepresenting the events in occupied Pattani in a way which serves the interests of the Colonization and its allies.
2. Forbidding any contacts with any party representing the Pattani people, liquidating the noted personalities in occupied Pattani and readopting the old policy of approaching certain personalities and expelling others.
3. Forbidding the hosting of any large honorary receptions and banquets in public during visits by Bangkok Thai officials to occupied Pattani, so as to avoid any possible counteraction from the Pattani Revolution.

The Aspects of the Distortion Policy

Resuming the explanation of his country's issue to Al-Qabas, Abd Al-Rahman says:

General Prem has tried to manipulate the policy of distortion in two directions:

1. Treating the Pattani issue merely as one of Islamic minorities or Islamic fanatics, and considering the PULO--the Pattani United Liberation Organization--as a terrorist one, responsible for all bloodshed, in order to cause a distortion in other's attitudes toward us.

The occupation authorities have also recently established an Islamic organization under the leadership of (Mant Marikan), as a representative of the Muslim Thais. This conspiratorial Islamic organization, considered by the occupation authorities as a potential replacement for our free organization, is known as (Tema Tut), or Islamic Preaching (TABLIGH) Organization. We have cogent documents on (Marikan's) ties with the Mossad, Israeli Intelligence, who train its members.

2. Bringing the word "communism" in, when talking about the Pattani issue, in order to win the support of the countries which bear hostility to Communism, especially since General Prem himself is known for his hostility to Communism.

Enthusiastic Support from Israel

Abd Al-Rahman adds to Al-Qabas: as a matter of fact the fascist General Prem has received full understanding and support from his allies, the leaders of the association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), because of his hostility to Communism. He has also received enthusiastic support from Israel, to the extent that the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok accused the PULO, in a statement by its Ambassador Mordekhay Lador to the GDR News Agency, of encouraging the Muslim Thais in Bangkok to stage demonstrations in front of the Israeli Embassy's premises and to burn the Israeli flag, after Israel declared Jerusalem as its eternal united capital.

The Spread of Islam

On the spread of Islam in his country, Abd Al-Rahman says: the inhabitants of Southeast Asia adopted Buddhism and Brahminism as their faiths before the coming of Islam, which began to conquer the area starting in the 12th Century A.D., through Arab traders who came from the Arabian Peninsula for the sake of trade, at first. Then they began preaching the teachings of the Islamic faith.

In the earlier periods, the preaching of Islam was limited to the Indonesian islands, especially the littoral parts of Sumatra and Java islands. Islam then spread throughout the entire Indonesian region, Malaya, Java Islands as well as Cambodia and Siam in the early years of the 13th Century A.D. The Malayans, including the Pattanis, professed Islam as their faith and built their mosques, which spread throughout all parts of Siam, according to their concentration in the population. According to the 1976 survey of the Thai government itself, the number of mosques totaled 6,000, distributed in 36 districts in the country. The Siamese of Thai nationality adhered to their Buddhism, except for a small number of them who adopted Islam or Christianity.

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